

Loyal troops subdue rebels after shooting in Lisbon

fierce clash between rebel forces and loyalist troops in Lisbon yesterday brought Portugal closer to civil war than at any time since the revolution started 19 months ago. Government troops stormed the rebel left-wing military police's barracks near the presidential palace. At least four deaths were reported. Infantry and armoured troops were said to be heading for Lisbon from northern Portugal last night to strengthen the Government forces.

Security force disbanded



General Otelo de Carvalho: an undecided future

Both the 2,000-strong military police regiment and the Light Infantry Regiment were controlled by Copcon, and the rebel paratroopers, who began the revolt yesterday, had made an announcement placing themselves under its command. The whereabouts of General Otelo de Carvalho, the controversial Copcon commander, were not immediately clear. According to one report, he was under arrest but another said he was merely resting. Because of his left-wing sympathies General Otelo has been at odds with the more moderate members of the Revolutionary Council for some weeks, but he is not believed to have played any direct role in the insurrection.

Copcon has no standing forces of its own but could call on those of the four military regions. It was the failure of Copcon to provide effective military backing for the moderate sixth provisional Government in the face of persistent left-wing agitation that caused the Government last week to suspend its activities, precipitating the present crisis. Moderates on the Revolutionary Council failed to persuade the President to remove General Otelo from command of the Light Infantry Regiment. His replacement by Captain Vasco Lorenzo, a leading moderate, provoked fierce opposition from leftists in the region. The paratroopers seized their barracks in protest at plans to disband the unit and they provided the opportunity for the left-wing military police to take a stand.

Iceland's alien subsidiary in liquidation

John Earle

Nov 26

Iceland Innocent today the first major victim of the industrial crisis when Leyland announced that it was putting its Icelandic subsidiary into liquidation. The measures include a series of new taxes for the city, investments by the city employees' pension funds, agreement by the pension funds and the city's banks to exchange short-term notes for longer-term bonds, and a moratorium on the repayment of privately held notes.

Mr Ford had insisted that these measures should be taken by the city and state authorities before he would himself agree to any federal assistance. Perhaps the hardest to accept was the new taxes, and they were approved last night in Albany after several failures to round up the necessary votes.

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New York taxes itself to win Ford aid

From Peter Strafford

New York, Nov 26

Officials in New York City and Albany, the state capital, have agreed on financial measures which it is hoped will persuade President Ford that federal help is now justified to prevent the city going bankrupt. The measures include a series of new taxes for the city, investments by the city employees' pension funds, agreement by the pension funds and the city's banks to exchange short-term notes for longer-term bonds, and a moratorium on the repayment of privately held notes.

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There will now be a higher personal income tax on New York residents, higher taxes for the business community on cigarettes, and the extension of

the sales tax to beauty shops, barbers, health salons, massage parlours and Turkish baths. In the course of the discussions in Albany, Mr Hugh Carey, the state governor, had to deal with Democratic critics who refused to accept a general increase in the city's sales tax. Republicans who rejected an increase in taxes on commuters, and black and Puerto Rican representatives who wanted more account taken of their problems.

Appearing on television this morning, Mr Carey said that the state legislature, city officials and others had now done all they could. It was up to Mr Ford to take action to save the city from bankruptcy, and he hoped he would show a sense of timing with tomorrow's national Thanksgiving holiday.

Federal assistance is seen as the final item in the package of measures designed to tide New York over until the middle of 1978, by which time it should have got its budget into balance. It would mark the beginning of the end of the crisis which has gripped the city since the spring.



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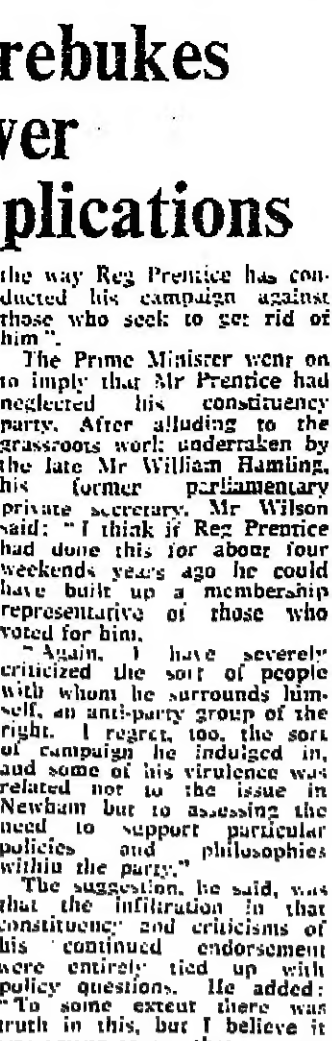
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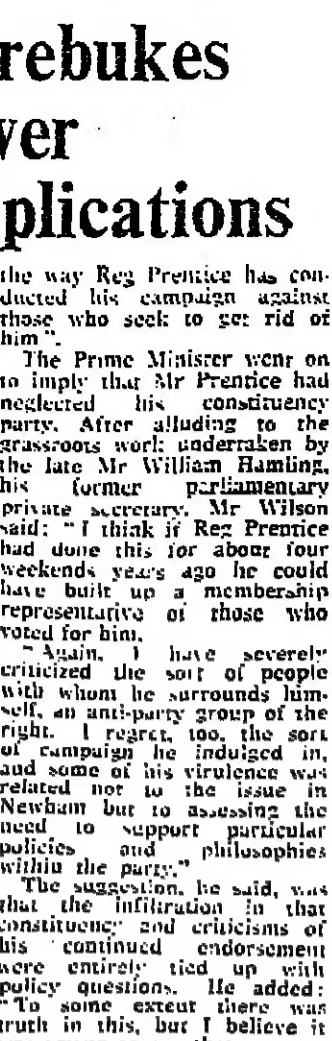
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Mr Murray accuses demonstrators of exploiting unemployed

By Paul Routledge and Tim Jones

TUC leaders, clearly shaken by the scale of a militant demonstration in London yesterday, are to seek immediate action from the Government to halt the rise in unemployment.

As marchers shouted "Murray out" outside the headquarters of the TUC in Great Russell Street, Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, accused demonstrators of exploiting the plight of the jobless for political ends. But he also said that the unions were sympathetic about employment prospects and would seek new talks with the Chancellor in the next two weeks.

Speaking after 20,000 had marched past the TUC offices, Mr Murray said: "Of course trade unionists are concerned about unemployment. The present level is unacceptable. The upward trend must be reversed, and soon."

"We shall in the near future be putting to the Government our specific proposals for further action to achieve this, consistent with the need to beat inflation, and we shall be expecting a response, and quickly."

The TUC is expected to hold talks with Mr Healey before mid-December, arguing for "action now" on union proposals for extension of the temporary employment subsidy; more funds for job-creation programmes administered by the Manpower Services Commission; more help for the construction industry; import controls for industries damaged by the untrained flow of low-price manufactured goods into the United Kingdom; and unspecified financial measures to alleviate the fall in demand.

Mr Murray promised: "We shall keep up our pressure on the Government, but the best way of overcoming this problem is by the TUC working with the Government, not by taking part in anti-government demonstrations."

"I have no doubt that many of the people in the demonstration are sincere and honest in their concern. But the true nature of the extremist groups which are callously exploiting this concern and the plight of the unemployed for their own political ends was illustrated by the attempted occupation of the TUC offices," Mr Murray said.

The police were called to Congress House on Tuesday night after a group of militants had locked themselves in a first-floor office overlooking Great Russell Street. They left after occupying the office for several hours when the police began forcing the door with a crowbar.

The men, variously estimated at between 10 and 20 in number, were protesting about the level of unemployment and the continued imprisonment of Mr Des Warren, the jailed Shrewsbury picket.

In unusually strong language, Mr Murray also criticised the "handful of Labour MPs who have been naive or misguided enough to be led by the nose to show vestiges of support for activities condemned by the TUC. He hoped they would take to heart the involvement of extremist groups and realise where the Labour movement's interests lie."

The demonstration had been called on the initiative of the north-western area of the TUC and the London and 8 district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Trains and coaches were stopped and unemployed workers and unemployed from all over the country.

It was the biggest demonstration against government policy since the United Kingdom took office in 1974, and possibly the largest protest against unemployment since the 1920s. It caused severe disruption of traffic in central London.

The massed ranks of trade unionists were interspersed with extreme left-wing groups, in-



Demonstrators marching past the TUC headquarters in London yesterday.

cluding the International Socialist, Trotskyist and anarchist groups, as well as the Communist Party of Great Britain which was largely responsible for organizing the demonstration.

Mr John Deason, a march steward, said: "We are annoyed that the TUC leadership will not give backing to this mobilization of trade unionists," one of their aims was to end the present TUC leadership and build the employment and unemployed in action against this social evil."

The march gained added significance from the publication

on Tuesday of the unemployment figures, which showed more people out of work than at any time since the war.

The banner-waving protesters, including 700 Chrysler workers threatened with possible redundancy, marched to the House of Commons to lobby their MPs.

The police said later that five men had been arrested and charged after alleged incidents in which four policemen were slightly hurt. The charges include allegations of being drunk and disorderly, obstructing the police and obstructing the highway.

'Loyalists' anticipate government powers

From Christopher Walker Belfast

The dominant "loyalist" coalition inside the Ulster Convention is setting up what amounts to a shadow Administration to monitor the work of each government department in the expectation that their powers will be returned to an Ulster parliament in the new year.

Details of this controversial plan were first put to Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, by representatives of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition during a private meeting held on Monday night days ago but they have not been made public before this.

The scheme has been adopted by the loyalist majority despite strong indications that the report of the Convention drafted will not be acceptable at Westminster. The coalition appears to be working on the unrealistic assumption that a wide range of powers will be conferred on a regional government with a built-in Protestant majority.

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed yesterday that at last week's meeting Mr Rees had agreed to allow the new groups free access to ministers' departments of state: "The facility is available to them," it stated, "but it will have no effect unless they are not abused."

During the next few days the 42 UUUC Convention members will be split into a number of study groups, probably eight to coincide with the number of secretaries of state. The group of the Ulster Unionist Coalition will be responsible for the selection of a senior politician to take charge of the group. One of the groups will be training new people for responsibility in running government departments at some time in the future.

The group handling agriculture has already been selected.

Border security plans to be put to Dublin

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

Secret proposals for increasing border security will be put to the Dublin Government later this week after an emergency meeting between senior British and Irish officials yesterday at Stormont Castle.

The meeting reflected the Government's deep anxiety about renewed Provisional IRA violence in remote border areas, particularly the countryside of south Armagh, where four British soldiers have been murdered in less than a week.

Although Mr Rees, Secretary of State, has recently expressed satisfaction with the cooperation on security received from the Dublin Government, British officials believe that the recent violence has disclosed several loopholes.

Proposals agreed at the meeting will be presented to the Republic's Ministry for Foreign Affairs by Mr John Hickman, Britain's acting Ambassador to Dublin, who took part in yesterday's meeting. Among the measures under consideration have been discussed ways of improving communications between the security forces on each side of the border and the possibility of sending more troops into the vulnerable areas.

Government officials are convinced from army intelligence reports that the latest border terrorism is designed to wreck Mr Rees's policy of releasing the remaining republican detainees by Christmas.

The Dublin Government remains adamant that its own border security arrangements are as intense as its limited economic and manpower resources allow. In private, Dublin officials also point out that policing in the Republic's border counties is much more widespread than in such areas as south Armagh and south Wick, where frequent IRA attacks in the Republic have now been made.

UDA call out: The 8th battalion of the mainly part-time Ulster Defence Regiment is being called out full time for up to a week in east Tyrone, where two policemen, Sergeant Patrick Maxwell, aged 34, a Roman Catholic, and Reserve Constable Samuel Clarke, aged 33, were killed in a Provisional IRA ambush on a Tuesday.

The call-out of the battalion, almost 600-strong and including 32 women, begins at noon today.

"Hanging" warning: There were warnings from both Government and Tory front benches in the Commons yesterday that restoration of the death penalty for acts of terrorism would do more harm than good (our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

Mr Ian Gilmour, spokesman on Home Affairs, opening for the Tories on the second reading of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, explained to his backbenchers that although it was a matter for individual judgment as to whether the death penalty had not been unduly determined by recent events in Spain.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, told MPs that he understood the strong feelings involved, and the natural reaction to acts of bestial horror, but he remained convinced that it was his duty to the death penalty had not been unduly determined by recent events in Spain.

As the debate opened on the Bill to react last year's Terrorism Act with its power to exclude certain persons from the United Kingdom, to prescribe organizations concerned with terrorism, to give special powers of arrest to the police, and to call on a court to order the release of a person from custody if it was found that the person had committed a terrorist offence.

The amendment, signed by 23 Tory MPs and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the United Unionist Coalition, declined to give a second reading to the Bill, which would give full protection to British subjects.

Parliamentary report, page 6

West Indian protest over visit to Jamaica

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

A plan to send two education officials to the West Indies, to study Jamaican culture was criticised by members of Nottingham West Indian National Association. They accused Nottinghamshire education authority of squandering taxpayers' money.

It will cost nearly £1,000 to send Mr Derek Suttell, the authority's deputy director of education, and Mr Eric Irons, West Indian employed by the authority, to the Caribbean.

Mr George Leigh, the association's chairman, said he had written to County Hall, Nottingham, to find out whether education authority regarding children born to Jamaican parents difficult. "As far as we know, the majority of the children were born in Nottingham," he added.

His association thought it money to pay for the trip should be spent on improving education.

The education department said the visit "will help us to understand something more of the background of one special group of families."

Couple's goods redeemed by businessman

From Our Correspondent King's Lynn

Mr Gordon Brown, a businessman, paid £567 at auction at Watton, Norfolk, yesterday to return a couple's furniture and car, seized by bailiffs. He bought 24 lots for £337, the paid £300 for the 1969 Ford Cortina.

Bailiffs had taken the furniture from Mr and Mrs Eddie Secker's home at Ashill, Norfolk, because as trustees of a Home Hole sports and social club, Mr Secker was held responsible for debts to a building of more than £3,500 for an extension to the club house. It was also the only club with any realisable assets.

Mr Brown, of King's Lynn, handed the furniture back to the Seckers. His top price was £28 for a purple carpet.

He explained: "I once had a similar experience myself. My furniture was seized by bailiffs because I had been prepared to pay £1,000 if necessary."

Mr Secker, aged 29, a lorry driver, said there was no danger that his £10,000 business would be sold over his head to meet the debts.

Wreckage 'not from trawler'

A piece of wreckage from a lifeboat, picked up by a Norwegian trawler off North Cornwall, did not come from Hull trawler Gaul, which was lost with her crew of 36 in the area in February last year, Department of Trade said yesterday.

A trawler net which thought to have come from Gaul will be examined at the end of the next few days.

Disturbance at Limerick jail

Three women prison officers at Limerick jail were seen when five republican prisoners buried boiling water on the floor and barricaded themselves in the kitchen.

Officers used hoses to blast them back to their cells. Prisoners are protesting increased security measures.

Prime Minister in clash over Mr Prentice

Continued from page 1

like what is going on. Now that candidates can identify themselves on the ballot paper in terms of party affiliations you could easily get a situation—a situation I would very much regret—in which candidates were standing with the approval of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

In a safe seat many of them would win. But in a marginal seat, where a move occurred against a sitting member, there might be a split, with a certainty of a victory by Labour's opponents.

Mr Wilson said he wanted to "warn the national executive about the situation that is developing." He added: "I reject the arrogance of extremists on the non-party, anti-party, left-wing, who have always opposed what we are trying to achieve, and equally the arrogance of the anti-party right."

The national executive agreed that the suggestions of both Mr Wilson and Mr Mikardo should go before the organization committee for examination. But the national executive did reject, by 16 votes to 12, an attempt to revive Mr Underhill's report on Trotskyist infiltration.

He continued: "I have spent 13 years so far trying to keep this party together, and I do not

like what is going on. Now that candidates can identify themselves on the ballot paper in terms of party affiliations you could easily get a situation—a situation I would very much regret—in which candidates were standing with the approval of the Parliamentary Labour Party."

Mr Wilson is understood to have told the executive that he intended to resign the post of national executive in the afternoon. Mr Wilson announced that he would resign the post of national executive in the afternoon. Mr Wilson announced that he would resign the post of national executive in the afternoon.

But at the end of a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the national executive in the afternoon Mr Wilson announced that he would resign the post of national executive in the afternoon.

The full text of Mr Wilson's statement is as follows: "As one who was chairman of the organization sub-committee longer than anyone else since the end of the war, I feel I must express my views in a letter to the party conference, set out my views on this unhappy Newham affair."

One thing I wanted to make quite clear at the outset. Whatever the outcome of the election, I shall remain a member of the Labour Party. I shall remain a member of the Labour Party. I shall remain a member of the Labour Party.

Mr Wilson said that if Mr Benn thought there was going to be a slump he ought to oppose import controls because such action would not help Britain to get over it.

While Mr Healey intends to bring in selective controls soon, he was criticizing those like Mr Benn who support party pressure for import controls.

Anger at Mr Wilson's statement

By Our Political Staff

Members of the Labour Party national executive expressed anger last night at the release of a statement that the Prime Minister had made to them.

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surrounded him, an anti-party group of the right. I regret, too, the sort of campaign he has conducted in his constituency. Influence was related not to the issue in Newham but to asserting the need to support particular policies and philosophies within the party.

The executive was that the infiltration in that constituency, and the fact that some members of the executive were entirely tied up with policy questions. To some extent there was truth in this, but I believe it was wrong to say that you can only attack infiltration, the "self-appointed Samuel". If you first purge yourself of anti-party influences, then you can attack infiltration.

On the question of people, I make two points. One: While the party has always been somewhat haphazard in its selection of candidates, or some of us would not be here—once a selected candidate has received the imprimatur, the stamp of the electorate, there has to be a very strong case for his removal. Such a case, as I have repeatedly emphasized, would exist if he failed adequately to represent their interests in Parliament; if through illness or other reasons he was unable to perform his duties; or if he blatantly flouted the policy of the party, or failed to support an elected Labour government.

Two: As I said at conference, I have been leader of this party for nearly 13 years. Not a single MP has left his constituency except on his own volition. My action was to restore the Labour whip, which has led to the enrichment of the party and indeed the present Cabinet. No one has even left the whip on the standing order of personal attacks, or the kind of personal attacks which we would be much smaller Parliamentary Labour Party. That is not what I would wish.

For these reasons I cannot lend my support to the idea that where I have gone to great lengths to justify my position, I should be asked to resign. Small groups of people, not in every case indigenous to the constituency, or possessing close ties with the constituency, should have the right to withdraw the whip I have sought to maintain.

I want to warn the national executive about the situation that is developing. I reject the arrogance of extremists on the non-party, anti-party, left-wing, who have always opposed what we are trying to achieve, and equally the arrogance of the anti-party right.

that as a national executive committee we are, and have been, all of us, for many years, making the constitution of the party. Clause eight gives us our first duty to ensure the stability of the party, and to keep it in active operation, a constituency Labour party in every constituency."

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Couple 'attempted suicide' after wife killed girls

By Our Staff Reporter

A couple tried several times to kill themselves after the wife had strangled the daughters she loved too much to let them live in a bad world, Mr Allan Henderson, the Glasgow, Scotland, man, said yesterday.

The couple took huge quantities of aspirin and tried to gas themselves with car exhaust fumes, it was stated. Mrs Mary McNall, aged 36, died. Her husband survived, and again tried to end his life. He cut his wrists, drank brake fluid and put a plastic bag over his head.

Mr Alfred McNall, an electrician of Cromer Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead, was asked to confirm that what he had told the police was correct. He was unable to take the oath.

The jury returned a verdict that Beverly, aged six, and her

sister Allison, aged three, died as the result of their mother's manslaughter while the mind of the lady was diminished: she had sense of diminished responsibility." Mrs McNall had committed suicide for the same reasons, they said.

Det Chief Inspector Gordon McMurtrie said Mr McNall had said that when he returned home from work on September 17 he found his daughters dead and his wife semi-conscious. He went to telephone for an ambulance but his wife told him not to. She had given tablets to the children.

Mr McMurtrie said Mr McNall and his wife then took aspirin and other tablets but they made them sick. They drove into north-west Durham, looking for a wood where they could die without involving anyone else.

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Apology by TV company

By Our Arts Reporter

Granada Television last night apologized for the lack of an episode of its political drama series, *The Nearby Man*, of an extract of the recorded broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons.

"If Granada have broken any undertaking connected with the recent broadcasting experiment we are sorry and will be writing to the Leader of the House to say so," the company said.

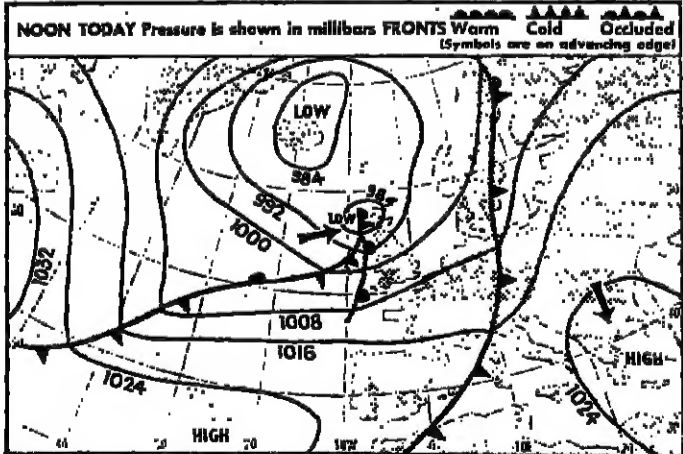
The episode, entitled *Resist*, first aired on Tuesday

evening, covered part of the period of the month's broadcasting experiment. The extract could be heard for 11.4 seconds and its use led to a protest in the Commons yesterday by Mr James Whitelaw, Labour MP for Bexley, Essex, and Crayford.

He said it was in breach of an undertaking that extracts should be used only in news bulletins and current affairs programmes.

Mr Shore, promised to look into his complaint. Parliamentary report, page 6

Weather forecast and recordings

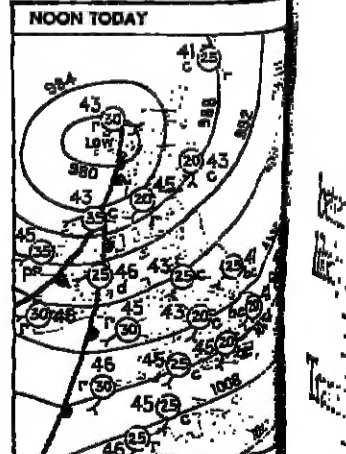


Today
Sun rises: 7.37 am Sun sets: 3.59 pm
Moon rises: 12.23 am Moon sets: 12.53 pm
New Moon: December 3, 12.23 am
Lighting up: 4.23 pm to 7.9 am
High water: London Bridge, 7.12 am, 6.41 pm (21.0ft); 8.5 pm, 6.51 pm (21.4ft). Avonmouth, 12.46 am, 10.8 am (35.4ft); 1.15 pm, 11.0 pm (36.2ft). Dover, 4.45 am, 5.31 pm (33.3 ft), 6.5 am (20.1ft). Hull, 12.23 pm, 6.2 am (20.2ft). Liverpool, 5.11 am, 7.9 pm (25.8ft); 5.34 pm, 8.1 pm (26.7ft).

Pressure will remain low to the N of Scotland, and troughs will move E over the British Isles.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, E, and W, East Anglia, E Midlands: Mostly dry at first but cloud and rain.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY
Midday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	12	10	10	12	10	10
Amsterdam	12	10	10	12	10	10
Antwerp	12	10	10	12	10	10
Birmingham	12	10	10	12	10	10
Bombay	12	10	10	12	10	10
Boston	12	10	10	12	10	10
Buenos Aires	12	10	10	12	10	10
Cardiff	12	10	10	12	10	10
Casablanca	12	10	10	12	10	10
Cebu	12	10	10	12	10	10
Colon	12	10	10	12	10	10
Dublin	12	10	10	12	10	10
Edinburgh	12	10	10	12	10	10
Hankow	12	10	10	12	10	10
Hong Kong	12	10	10	12	10	10
Kobe	12	10	10	12	10	10
London	12	10	10	12	10	10
Lyons	12	10	10	12	10	10
Manila	12	10	10	12	10	10
Medan	12	10	10	12	10	10
Memphis	12	10	10	12	10	10
Montevideo	12	10	10	12	10	10
Mumbai	12	10	10	12	10	10
Nairobi	12	10	10	12	10	10
San Francisco	12	10	10	12	10	10
Singapore	12	10	10	12	10	10
Sourabaya	12	10	10	12	10	10
Taipei	12	10	10	12	10	10
Tientsin	12	10	10	12	10	10
Yokohama	12	10	10	12	10	10



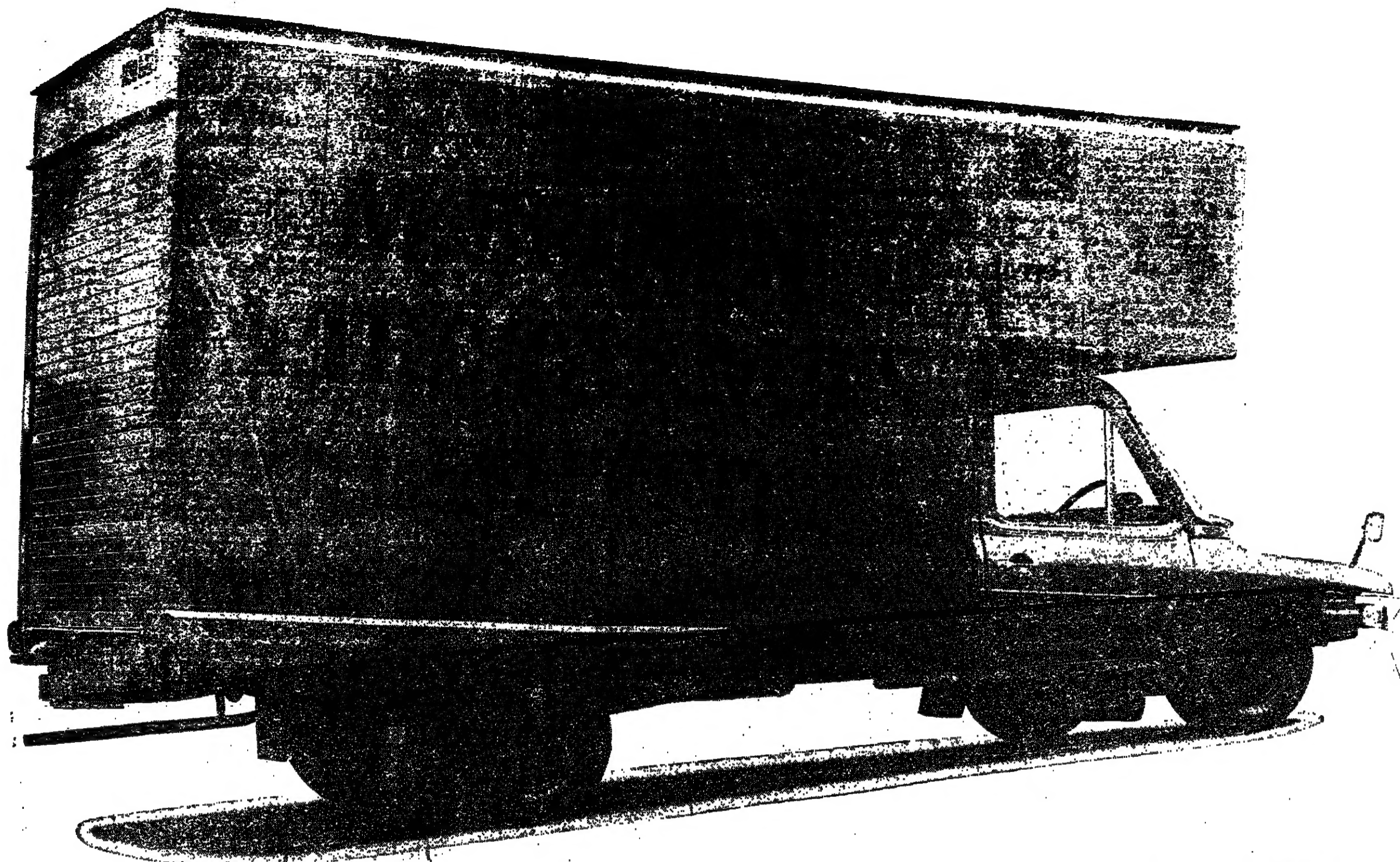
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Bombay	12	10	10	12	10	1

مَكْنَزَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



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HOME NEWS

Fall in roll of pupils at primary schools

By a Staff Reporter
The number of children in primary schools fell last year for the first time for 12 years, according to statistics for England and Wales published today by the Department of Education and Science.

The number of full-time pupils in maintained primary schools in 1974 declined to 5,624,924 in the previous year, reducing the number almost to the level of 1971. However, if middle schools are included, the decline is much less, about 2,000 children. This is the first time since 1962 that the total primary school population has fallen but is balanced by a big increase in the number of children below school age in nursery and primary schools. The number of children aged four to five in maintained primary schools, both full-time and part-time, increased by more than 1,000.

The number of children in all types of school, however, continued to rise. In 1974 there were more than 9,500,000 children in all schools, 370,000 more than in the previous year. However, 250,000 extra pupils can be accounted for by the raising of the school-leaving age. The number of teachers also increased, from 477,000 in 1973 to 480,000 in 1974, a rise in a single year for more than thirty years. That significantly improved the pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools, where it fell from 25.5 to 24.9. In secondary schools, although pupil numbers rose, the ratio improved only from 17.0 to 17.3. The proportion of oversize pupils fell from 18.9 to 18.0.

The trend in children staying at school has been complicated by the statistics by the Department of Education, which show that in 1974, valid comparisons of the previous years therefore only possible in the case of 16- and 18-year-olds, where there was no improvement over the previous year in the proportion of pupils staying on, and in the case of 17-year-olds there was a small reduction. The figures also reveal the progress of comprehensive re-organization of secondary education. The number of comprehensive schools in 1974 stood at 2,223, compared with 1,835 in 1973. The number of pupils in comprehensive schools rose to 2,136,958, compared with 2,106,406 in 1973. That means the percentage of secondary pupils in comprehensive schools increased from 50.7 to 52.1 between 1973 and 1974. (Statistics of Education, Vol. 1, H.M.S.O., £2.75).

Mr du Cann unopposed as 1922 chairman

Our Political Correspondent
Mr Edward du Cann, aged 53, of Taunton and a former member of the Conservative Party, was re-elected unopposed, chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee yesterday. He has held the position since 1972. The nominations for the annual election of officers were closed at noon. Mr du Cann was challenged, although there had been suggestions two weeks ago that a senior backbencher might be persuaded to stand against him. Mr Francis Pym, MP for Weymouth and Portland, had been approached, but he was announced on November 17 that he would challenge Mr du Cann. The retiring honorary treasurer, Mr Godman Irvine, and two honorary secretaries,

Free fuel allowance for needy families urged

By Roger Vilevare
Between 2 and 4 per cent of households may be unable to pay their fuel bills this winter, according to a survey by the National Consumer Council, described yesterday as a consumer strike.

Allowances of free fuel to provide needy families with a minimum supply of heat, light and power were suggested by Mr Michael Young, a consumer councillor, to a House of Commons select committee on nationalized industry tariffs. The cost of fuel, especially electricity, has risen sharply, but the full effects have not yet been felt, he said. "The coming winter's fuel bills will undoubtedly affect many people and have far worse consequences for some."

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the committee that phasing out of subsidies to nationalized industries should be almost complete by the end of the year, but Mr Young said it seemed harsh to end these subsidies when costs had risen so much. Mr Young said high fuel costs were here to stay but the unprecedented increases, against a background of general inflation, high unemployment and falling living standards would present an acute difficulty. The fuel allowance should be "generous this year, less so next, considerably smaller two years hence and then phased out altogether after that."

The consumer council suggested an allowance of 1,500 units of electricity for all

electric families; 150 therms for those heating and cooking by gas; and 750 units of electricity and 75 therms of gas for mixed fuel users.

Applications for a fuel allowance would have to be made to the Supplementary Benefits Commission. The consumer council hoped to have a scheme operating in time for this winter's bills.

Southern Ireland has a free fuel allowance scheme for severely disabled pensioners. Mr Young also said the time between a final demand and disconnection seemed very short and should be extended to allow time to organize help for those in need.

A monitoring scheme to discover whether people called to help obtained it was also suggested. A letter should be enclosed with the final demand describing the circumstances in which people might get help with their fuel bill. Once a person had approached the relevant fuel consumer council and it was established that he had a good case the fuel authorities would suspend action until the matter was resolved.

The plan was not to supplant the existing liaison procedures but rather to check how they worked and to see how many people fell through the net. The consumer council is also in favour of inverting tariffs so that small consumers pay less; the continuation of half-price electricity for longer than planned; alternatives to the quarterly fuel adjustment in electricity tariffs; and the priority development of self-cancelling tokens instead of coins for prepayment meters.

Emphasis on comfort in London bus for 1980s

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

London Transport's prototype double-deck bus for the 1980s was demonstrated yesterday. It has doors controlled by the driver as standard fittings, although they add greatly to the cost of the bus and market research shows a strong preference on the part of passengers for the open-platform type.

London Transport says doors controlled by drivers are essential for one-man buses, and have greatly reduced boarding accidents. The loss of passenger freedom and convenience is accepted as the price of greater safety.

In most respects British Leyland's new B15 bus is likely to win the approval of passengers. The engine is in a sound-proofed compartment at the back, so noise has been sharply reduced. The floor has been lowered by seven inches, making it easier for the elderly and infirm to step on board, and giving tall people more head room.

A new suspension system gives a very smooth ride, and hydraulic brakes, power-assisted steering, an aluminium body and automatic gears make it a de luxe affair, which indeed it ought to be at about £25,000 a vehicle, 10 to 15 per cent more than today's standard bus.

Prototype will start intensive testing in various cities soon; if all goes well they will start entering service in London in about two years.

Demand for power to scrap rail board

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Minister for Transport should be empowered to dissolve the British Railways Board and take over the running of the railways if the board continues to fail to meet its target, a book published today proposes. The railway deficit is about £200m a year.

Abolition of the board would end "the present deplorable situation in which it devotes its best efforts to extracting money from the Government, and is prepared if necessary to mislead the Civil Service", the authors, Mr Richard Pryke and Mr John Dodgson, Liverpool University economists, argue.

Although the book indicates the regime at British Rail is not entirely pessimistic about the railway's future. Given more selective and economical investment and above all big savings in manpower and improvements in productivity, British Rail could be commercially viable by

1981 without drastic surgery to the system, the authors calculate.

The main requirement is a 36 per cent reduction in staff from about 349,000 to 225,000, including a reduction of over 20,000 or 60 per cent in train crews. The book says drivers spend less than half their time driving, and secondmen are "almost completely unnecessary."

The authors say a fundamental cause of British Rail's demoralization is the board's failure to fulfil the requirements of the 1963 Transport Act. The Act, instead of being the spur to greater effort by the board as providing a holiday from financial discipline.

That, the book says, explains "the board's past failure to reduce its labour force as much as had been planned, and its present unwillingness to plan these savings in manpower that stare it in the face."

Bus crews strike over 'bashing'

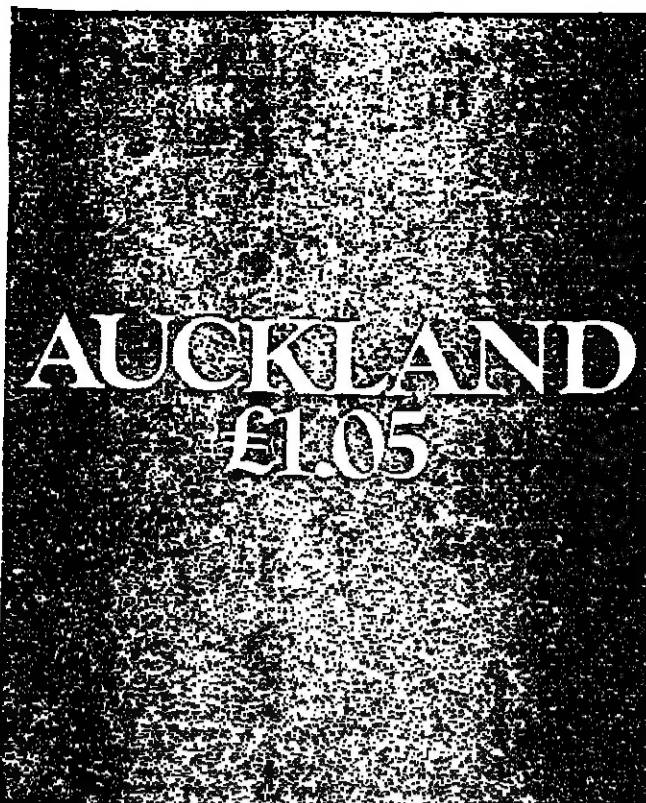
Bus crews in north Staffordshire and south Cheshire with the Potteries Motor Traction Company are to strike on Saturday in protest against recent assaults on buses.

A representative of the workers, who belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "We regret the inconvenience to the public but we have decided we have had enough. The busliners have to stop."

Airlift starts big Nato exercise

Airlift carrying troops from four Nato countries landed at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, yesterday at a rate of one every 20 minutes.

The landings were the start of an operation involving about 4,000 troops from the United States, Belgium, Germany and Italy who are to assemble on Salisbury Plain for a confrontation next week with the "enemy", who will be mainly British.



The charge shown is for a 60 second call.



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Driver cleared in urine sample case

Alan Stuart Hutchison, aged 43, a business consultant and former racing driver, of Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, was acquitted by the direction of Judge Dewar at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday of attempting to tamper with a urine sample. Mr Alan Green, for the prosecution, said the allegation was that a sample sent on behalf of the defendant to be analyzed had probably had water added. Mr William MacFetheron, QC, for the defence, said that before reaching the analyst the sample had been with many people. The judge accepted his contention that the sample was no more than a preparatory act to the commission of the alleged offence. Mr Hutchison was remanded in custody until today for sentence on charges of causing death by dangerous driving and of driving while intoxicated.

Man has three years added to sentence

Thomas O'Neill, aged 20, who appealed at the Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh yesterday against his two-year sentence for armed robbery, had three years added to the sentence. Lord Emslie, Lord Justice-General, said two years was grossly inadequate for the offence, so they proposed to raise it to three years. The judge, sitting with Lord Johnston and Lord Avonside, added: "The crime of armed robbery will not be treated lightly in any court in this country; and I hope that note will be taken by all those who have a mind to engage in that particular crime that the sentence they can expect to receive will be severe."

Menuhin tribute planned in concert series

By Our Arts Reporter
Mr Ian Hunter, joint organizer with Mr Victor Hochhauser of next year's International Celebrity Series of 21 concerts and recitals, said yesterday that they ranked with any series put on in any capital city, "and without a penny of subsidy in public money."

The series, which will cost £150,000 to present, will include two concerts to mark the sixtieth birthday of Yehudi Menuhin, performances by the Vienna Philharmonic, Boston Symphony and New York Philharmonic orchestras, and appearances by Claudio Arrau, Daniel Barenboim, Menuhin himself and his son, Jeremy, Sviatoslav Richter, Rostropovich, Isaac Stern and Rozhdensky.

Barenboim will give a complete cycle of all the Beethoven piano concertos on two successive nights, and Pinchas Zukerman will play and direct the English Chamber Orchestra in a programme of all six Bach Brandenburg Concertos on a single evening.

The same orchestra will take part in a concert with Isaac Stern on February 22 when he will perform three violin concertos, two by Bach and one by Mozart.

Sixteen of the concerts take place in the Albert Hall, the rest in the Festival Hall. Other overseas visitors will be the Boston Pops Orchestra with Arthur Fiedler, Murray Perahia, Miriam Fried, Ida Handel and the conductors Alexander Schneider and George Singer.

Britain's representatives include Clifford Curzon, John Lill, Colin Davis, Sir Charles Groves, Neville Marriner, and the English four orchestras, the Chamber, London Philharmonic, New Philharmonia, and Royal Philharmonic.

Explosives acquittal

No evidence for the prosecution was offered yesterday when Kevin Christopher Daniels, aged 18, of Worpole Road, Wimbledon, was charged at Guildhall Justice Room with illegally possessing explosives. He was discharged.

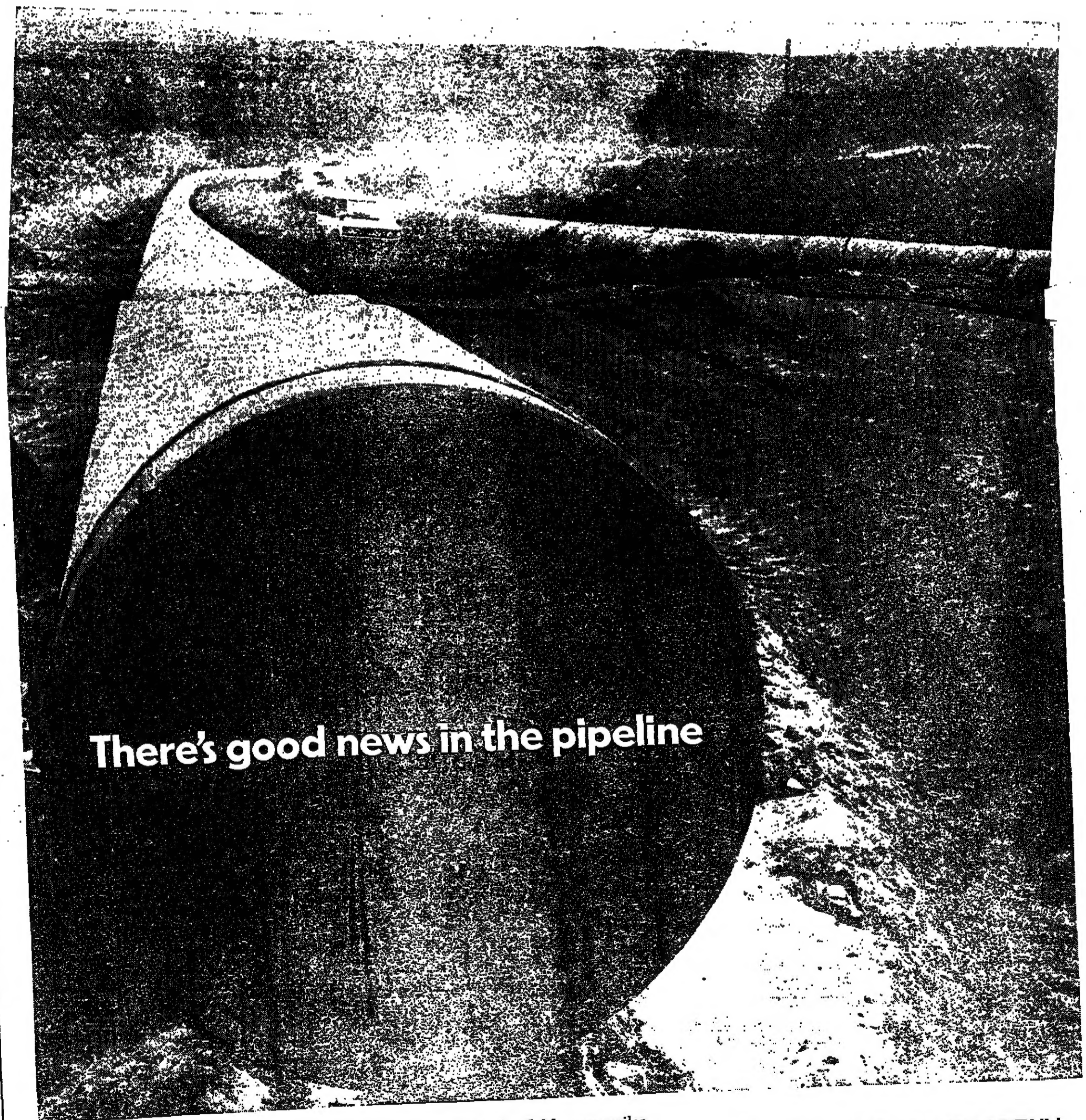
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There's good news in the pipeline

Gas is good news for Britain. It already supplies about 30 per cent of the nation's useful heat. By 1980 this is likely to rise to as much as 40 per cent. British Gas has worked hard and successfully to secure additional supplies of natural gas to meet the growing demand. For instance, all the gas from both the British and Norwegian parts of the Frigg field will be brought home for Britain's benefit. And we're going full speed ahead

laying four hundred and fifty more miles of high pressure pipeline to bring it to our customers as soon as it comes ashore. Meanwhile, gas from the Rough field is now in the pipeline and will soon be adding an extra 100,000,000 cubic feet a day to our energy supplies. This is just the latest step in the programme of bringing Britain's gas to you.

Natural Gas is one of Britain's most precious assets. So please use it carefully—it's much too good to waste.

GAS-DOING A GOOD JOB FOR BRITAIN



BRITISH GAS

King's pardon dashes hopes of Spain's political prisoners

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Nov 26

Spain's 2,000 political prisoners gain very little from the

pardon granted by King

Juan Carlos I, the decree of

which was published in today's

official state bulletin. Pardon

is given to certain convicted

also to certain suspects who

have not yet been tried.

The King's decree, to com-

memorate the beginning of his

reign, reduces the sentence of

at least 200 political prisoners

and restores driving licences

temporarily revoked for such

reasons as drunken driving and

driving without a licence. But

it does not do so in a

deal to favour the political

prisoners' lot.

An improvised press con-

ference in a hotel lobby in

Madrid today, the wife of Se-

ñor Carlos, an imprisoned

member of the illegal leftist

union organization known as

the Workers' Commission,

said: "Not even General

Fran granted such an

astounding pardon."

Professor Enrique Tierno

Galan, a lawyer and leader of

the Interior Socialist Party

(P.S.), said the decree was

very restrictive, and that it

appointed non-violent oppo-

sition groups. A group of more

than 100 lawyers drafted a

letter to the National Lawyers'

Association protesting against the

decree. I think the decree was

pre-emptive, said: "As a

lawyer and a lawyer I am

naturally crushed about the

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Army unrest in France attributed to socialists

From Richard Wigg

Paris, Nov 26

M. Chirac, the French Prime

Minister, accused the opposi-

tion Socialist Party in Parlia-

ment today of "organizing dis-

order and subversion" in the

French Army.

Instigating the distribution of

leaflets last weekend by social-

ist workers at the Gare de

l'Est in Paris, from which re-

cruits leave to do their national

service, and recent attempts to

form "soldiers' trade unions",

the Prime Minister promised

that the Government would

take strong preventive action.

He did not tell Parliament

exactly what this would be, but

according to a senior French

general who has just returned

from inspecting units stationed

in West Germany, it could well

involve proceedings.

According to a Sofres public

opinion poll made public to-

day, 61 per cent of French

people reject the idea of trade

unions in the armed forces.

The Ministry of Information

and Tourism today barred the

Foreign Correspondents' Asso-

ciation from holding a press

conference with Señor Felipe

Gonzalez, the secretary general

of the Socialist Party (PSOE),

at the press club, which is

run by the ministry.

The decree reduces the death

penalty now pending against

three people to 30 years' im-

prisonment. It also reduces to

years any death penalty yet

to be imposed for offences com-

mitted before last Saturday.

There are about 600 people im-

prisoned under the anti-terrorist

decree which makes the death

penalty obligatory for any

serious terrorist offence. The

decree thus saves the King from

having to deal with an expected

series of death penalties for

terrorism.

In Madrid, seven people

accused of belonging to the

Workers' Commission were to-

day sent to prison by the Pub-

lic Order Court, which deals

only with political offences.

Their terms ranged from six

months to three years.

Madrid, Nov 26.—The Duke

of Edinburgh arrived today to

represent the Queen at cere-

monies tomorrow marking the

accession of King Juan Carlos.

He was accompanied by Lord

Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal and

Leader of the House of Lords.

Reuter.

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Mrs Ryan shielding her face from photographers.

Paintings stolen in 1973 said to be recovered

Marseilles, Nov 26.—Six

paintings by Corot, Rubens,

Dufy and others stolen from a

Marseilles museum in February,

1973, have been recovered, a

Méditerranée-La France report

today. The police, however,

said they knew nothing about it.

The newspaper said that the

paintings were believed to have

been moved to Italy for at least

one year and that the French

Foreign Ministry had been

involved in their recovery. It

quoted a report that a ransom

had been paid for them but no

figure was mentioned.—AP.

Women on trial for mass murder

Düsseldorf, Nov 26.—Sixteen

people, among them six women,

went on trial here today

charged with complicity in mass

murders at the Nazi concentra-

tion camp of Mauthausen, Poland,

during the Second World War.

The accused, aged between

54 and 72, were guards and

medical orderlies at the camp

where 250,000 people died,

according to a court statement.

Soviet and Polish estimates put

the number at about a million,

most of them Jews.

Photographers crowded round

when one of the women defend-

ants, Mrs. Hermine Ryan, aged

56, was led into court. Mrs

Ryan, an Austrian-born Ameri-

can who was extradited by a

New York court in 1973 to face

the charges, said she had

been in charge of the camp

laundry. The British occupation

authorities extradited her to Poland

after the war but, after serving

part of a heavy prison sentence

there, she was repatriated to

West Germany in 1956.

Defence lawyers spent all of

the first day of the trial chal-

lenging the court and its expert

witnesses, motions on which the

court will decide tomorrow. The

public prosecutor is to begin

reading the 300-page indictment

next Tuesday.

The trial is expected to last

several weeks.

£60m policy to reduce EEC fishing fleet

From David Cross

Brussels, Nov 26

As part of its plans for up-

dating the EEC's fishing policy,

the European Commission has

come forward with a 118m

unit of account (about £60m)

modernization programme for

the Community's coastal fishing

fleet. The overall aim is to

reduce the size of the fleet in

an orderly fashion, without

causing undue hardship to the

100,000 inshore fishermen.

The commission argues that

at a time when costs are rising

faster than prices and tradi-

tional fishing grounds are being

depleted, production targets

will probably have to be fixed

to regulate catches. This will

clearly be all the more

necessary if, as seems likely,

fishing limits round the Com-

munity are extended to 200

miles in the next couple of

years or so.

The £60m, which would be

phased over the first five years

of a ten-year programme, would

be used to finance the building

of new craft and to encourage

the early retirement of fisher-

men and the destruction of

aging vessels. The commission

estimates that well over half of

the Community's inshore fleet

will be over 15 years old during

the next five years.

Other grants would be ear-

marked for developing fish and

shellfish breeding, to finance

conservation, processing and

marketing installations and for

research and training projects.

The Community has yet to take

a definitive stand about terri-

torial rights for its fishermen

when the existing limits are ex-

tended.

Britain, for example, would

like to ban fishermen from

other EEC member states

operating in any wider terri-

torial waters, but this would

destroy the aims of the Com-

munity's policy. Theoretically,

fishermen from all member

countries should be allowed into

the territorial waters of all the

others after 1983.

Oslo sets deadline for extending sea limit

From Our Correspondent

Oslo, Nov 26

The possibility of unilateral

Norwegian action to proclaim a

200-mile economic zone off its

coasts was underlined today in

a report to the Storting (Parli-

ament) by Mr Jens Evensen,

the minister for matters relat-

ing to the law of the sea. He

reviewed the United Nations

conference on the law of the

sea as well as negotiations with

other countries concerning the

extension of the Norwegian

fisheries limit and the intro-

duction of a 200-mile zone.

Mr Evensen said that other

countries, including Britain,

had been informed that a solu-

Mr Nixon gives conditional offer to testify on CIA and Chile to Senate committee

From Fred Emery
Washington, Nov 26

Mr Richard Nixon has responded to the Senate Intelligence Committee's request for his sworn testimony with a proposal that he do so under his own terms, at his home in California.

Mr Nixon managed to fend off demands for his testimony while he was President, although he did make offers, which were promptly rejected, to receive at the White House the two senior members of the House Judiciary Committee investigating his impeachment.

Mr Nixon's account is the main missing link in the Senate committee's compilations on American covert activities, beginning with the assassination plotting under President Eisenhower when Mr Nixon was Vice-President.

The pardon granted Mr Nixon after his resignation does not cover any criminal activities that might have been committed before he was President, which is one possible reason for the restrictions he is now proposing.

However, the committee is principally interested in his testimony concerning Chile. The committee has already found that President Nixon ordered the Central Intelligence Agency to prevent Dr Allende, the Marxist leader, from coming to power in 1970, the period between 1970 and Dr Allende's death in the 1973 coup is particularly crucial.

With Congress in Thanksgiving holiday recess there was no official reaction to Mr Nixon's proposal, although the committee chairman, Senator

Frank Church, expressed serious reservations over Mr Nixon's attempts to limit the questions to two: Mr Church and the committee's senior Republican.

Mr Nixon's proposal comes after some four months of negotiation, during which the committee has suggested issuing a subpoena. According to leaked accounts, Mr Nixon wishes, additionally, to have it made clear that he is testifying voluntarily, and thus able to invoke "executive privilege" in refusing to answer, as he often tried during the Watergate demands for his tapes.

Mr Nixon is evidently claiming that his health prevents him from travelling to Washington. News reports have unkindly pointed out that he was well enough to be seen publicly playing golf recently with the head of the Teamsters union, and other people.

One problem for the Senate committee is time. It wants to wind up its work by February at the latest. If it subpoenas Mr Nixon, and court proceedings ensue, the committee's mandate would expire before the issue might be resolved. Patrick Brogan writes: "A further examination of the evidence in the murder of Dr Martin Luther King has been ordered after disclosures that the Federal Bureau of Investigation carried out a campaign of persecution, blackmail, and slander against him."

There have already been suggestions that the FBI was involved in a conspiracy to murder him.

Dr King was shot in Memphis,

Tennessee, in 1968. Mr James Earl Ray, later convicted, escaped abroad and was able to roam the world for months before he was caught at Heathrow airport, London.

Mr Edward Levi, the Attorney-General, who has asked his staff to look into the matter, is not suggesting that there was a plot to kill Dr King, let alone that Mr J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI at the time, was behind it.

However, the disclosures by the Senate select committee on intelligence that Mr Hoover went to extraordinary (and illegal) lengths to discredit Dr King, and that the Government, with the tacit approval of various Presidents, attempted to assassinate several foreign leaders, have caused the most sceptical to waver.

The Hoover plot against Dr King included bugging his hotel rooms when he travelled, following him everywhere and infiltrating his organizations and personal staff. A scabrous tape recording was sent to his wife and an anonymous letter was sent to him suggesting that he should commit suicide. Slanders were spread about him to reporters and the possibility was even examined of supplanting him as the leading spokesman for America's blacks and replacing him with a more compliant figure.

All this was revealed by the Senate committee on intelligence a week before it published its report on assassination plots. The temptation to put two and two together is of course irresistible to conspiracy theorists.



Dr Sakharov tells a press conference in his Moscow flat of his decision to delegate his wife to receive the Nobel peace prize on his behalf at the forthcoming Oslo ceremony.

Dr Sakharov wants wife to get prize

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, Nov 26

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident nuclear physicist, has delegated his wife to receive the Nobel peace prize on his behalf at the award ceremony due to take place in Oslo in two weeks' time. At a press conference in his Moscow flat this morning, Dr Sakharov gave correspondence copies of a letter addressed to the Nobel prize committee.

It stated that he considered himself duty bound to attend the ceremony in person. Unfortunately, the authorities had denied him permission to make the trip, giving as a pretext his knowledge of state military secrets. He still considered a positive answer to his request for strengthening of détente; but given the circumstances, he was authorizing his wife, Elena Georgievna Bonnar, to represent him at the award ceremony. He asked the committee to consider her his trusted proxy.

Dr Sakharov married Elena Bonnar in 1969 after the death of his first wife. She is now in Italy, having obtained permission last August to go there for a delicate eye operation. Although Soviet eye specialists

are famous, she maintained that she was unable to get the proper medical attention because of the ostracism generated against herself. She has now made a successful recovery.

In his letter, Dr Sakharov also informed the Nobel committee that he had invited four friends to attend the awards ceremony. These were: Mr Valentin Turchin, a computer specialist, Mr Yuri Orlov, a theoretical physicist, Mr Andrei Tverdokhlebov, a mathematician, and Mr Sergei Kovalyov, a biologist. The first two are at liberty, though dismissed from their jobs about two years ago after joining the Sakharov human rights committee, affiliated with Amnesty International.

Mr Tverdokhlebov and Mr Kovalyov are both being held. The former was arrested in Moscow last April, charged with anti-Soviet propaganda. It is reported that his trial is due shortly.

Mr Kovalyov has been held on similar charges since December, 1974, in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

At the press conference, Dr Sakharov produced two further letters addressed respectively to the state prosecutors of the Russian Republic and the Republic of Lithuania, advising them of his invitation to two dissidents and requesting their assistance in arranging for the two men to be released and allowed to make the trip to Oslo. Dr Sakharov doubts that his requests will be granted.

African leaders urge OAU emergency talks on Angola

Kampala, Nov 26.—Seven African leaders have agreed that the heads of state of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) should hold an urgent emergency meeting on Angola, according to Uganda radio today.

It said the seven heads of state, who met in Kinshasa for the tenth anniversary of Zaire's revolution, were the leaders of Burundi, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo and Uganda. President Amia of Uganda is the chairman of the OAU, which groups 46 states.

The radio said: "They also find a support for President Amin's view that the OAU cannot recognize only the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as the author in the troubled country."

Lusaka radio, monitored in London, said today that MPLA had forced its opponents to retreat on all battlefronts. The

radio quoted a communiqué by Commander Ju Ju of the MPLA military high command, issued yesterday.

Fighting the Luanda-based MPLA are the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

The communiqué broadcast from Luanda today said that, close to the capital, an army which included invaders from air continued to be driven back by MPLA troops north of the Dande river, which flows about 40 miles north of Luanda.

New York, Nov 26.—South Africa's support for President Amin's view that the OAU cannot recognize only the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as the author in the troubled country.

Man digs up lawn at White House

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 26

Mr Philip Berrigan got himself arrested again yesterday, this time for digging up the lawn in front of the White House. Early in the day he was arrested outside the British Embassy, where he was caught spraying the slogan "dismal or dig graves" on the pavement in red paint. He had already painted it on the plinth of Sir Winston Churchill's statue.

The embassy authorities decided that they did not wish to become involved in Mr Berrigan's attempts to get himself arrested. They said: "The diplomatic immunity of the embassy could not be used to protect him, and the police dropped the charges against Mr Berrigan and two other men who were with him."

So off he went to the White House. This time he was accompanied by his brother Daniel, and they were arrested with four other people. They entered the grounds with the usual groups of tourists

Physicist 'takes too idealistic view of West'

Disillusioned Russian immigrants in America accuse him of naivety

Peter Stafford
New York, Nov 26

Russian dissidents who have settled recently in New York are finding that life in the West is far from utopian. Some are so unhappy that they have been trying to return to the Soviet Union, while others are critical of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the nuclear physicist, for taking too idealistic a view of the West.

Three of the dissidents have just written an open letter to Dr Sakharov in which they accuse him of lacking objectivity when he writes about the West, particularly in his recent book *My Country and the West*.

They also accuse him of naivety in believing that Western governments are necessarily altruistic and humanitarian, and believers in human rights. The governments are primarily concerned with the interests of their own people, they say, and pressure for

liberalization and democratization in the Soviet Union should come from inside, not outside.

The three authors of the letter are Mr Valentin Prusakov and Mr Eduard Limonov, both writers, and Mr Vagrich Bakhtchanian, a publisher. They have all left the Soviet Union in recent years, and all feel that while they are better off in New York than they were in Moscow, there should be no illusions about the West.

They themselves do not want to return to the Soviet Union, but the life of an immigrant is a hard one, and they say they know many people who would like to return if they could. They appeal to Dr Sakharov, who is still in the Soviet Union, to want to leave the Soviet Union.

They are not trying to make out that everything is wonderful in Russia; but they consider people like Dr Sakharov, "old dissidents," still clinging to Stalinist ideas, are too much inclined to see the differences between the Soviet Union and the West in black and white terms.

As examples of the problems in the West they list terrorism, the economic crisis, religious, nationalist and racial conflicts, the growth of crime, spiritual emptiness and the lack of ideals. These, they say, are some of the principal features of Western society today, and Dr Sakharov does not notice them.

If the West cannot solve its own problems, it makes no sense to ask it to help with the difficulties of the Soviet Union, and the absence of law there. The three authors say that their own experience of life in the West has helped them to get rid of their illusions. They no longer believe the Western world can help to solve the Soviet Union's problems.

The Russians evidently have been impressed by the difference between rich and poor in the West. When I saw Mr Limonov recently, he told me that he had spent some time in the United States, and he had noted the contrast between the luxury cars and stores in Washington and the primitive conditions in

which many people lived in southern Italy.

The three make a similar point in their open letter to Dr Sakharov. They criticize him for his description of poor living conditions in the Soviet Union, which could apply to any country; and they argue that he overstates the high standard of living in the United States.

While they admit that the standard of living is much higher in the United States than in the Soviet Union, they point out that Dr Sakharov forgets the high rents, and the costs of gas, electricity and the telephone. An American worker, they maintain, would not be surprised by the description of Sakharov.

In the last resort, the authors add, if Western and Soviet interests conflict, the Western governments would abandon all their altruistic and humanitarian ideas. They cite as a warning the decision taken by the British and the Americans at the end of the Second World War to return millions of Soviet citizens to Stalin.

Japanese strike for the right to strike

From Our Correspondent
Tokyo, Nov 26

Government workers launched the biggest strike in Japanese history today in support of a demand for legal recognition of their right to go on strike.

The strike, called by the Korokyo, a council of trade unions representing 870,000 government workers, crippled the transport system and seriously disrupted postal and telecommunications services.

Mr Miki, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet met today to try to resolve the dispute, but the ministers could not agree on a report submitted by a government-commissioned panel of experts.

The report recommended that some state corporations and government enterprises be

transformed into private enterprises and their workers be given the right to strike.

About 22 million people were affected today, when 18,000 passenger trains and 5,000 goods trains stopped operations. In seven cities, including Tokyo, workers on some private railways stopped work for half a day in a sympathy walkout. A total of 25 million items of mail remained undelivered. Telephone and telegram services were disrupted.

However, no disorders were reported. Most commuters on the national railways either switched to private railways or decided to take days off during the strike.

The strike is set to last 10 days unless the Government agrees to change the law prohibiting strikes in the public sector.

Chief Rabbi of Britain will visit Soviet Union

From Paul Martin
Beirut, Nov 26

Dr Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain, plans to visit the Soviet Union next month, it was announced yesterday.

His proposed 10-day tour, in response to several invitations from the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, will include visits to Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. It will be the rabbi's first visit to the country.

Planning for the trip has taken several months. A visa is still awaited from the Soviet authorities.

Dr Waldheim in Damascus talks on UN mandate

Damascus, Nov 26.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, conferred with President Assad of Syria today in an effort to bridge "crucial gaps" still blocking a renewal of the United Nations' peace-keeping mandate on the Golan Heights.

With only four days left before the expiry deadline, however, there were increasing indications that Syria intended to renew the mandate despite sober admonitions against optimism from Dr Waldheim himself.

Dr Waldheim met President Assad and Mr Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Foreign Minister, immediately after arriving from Cairo, and a brief stopover in Beirut, where he conferred with Lebanese leaders on the civil war.

His main mission on the last leg of a week-long Middle East tour was to persuade President Assad to accept the United Nations' Golan Heights mandate. "Everything depends on conversations I will have tonight in Damascus," Dr Waldheim told reporters before leaving.

Priest allowed to leave Chile

Santiago, Nov 26.—The Rev Daniel Panchot, an American priest who had been held for two weeks accused of aiding fugitive "leftist guerrillas," left by air for San Francisco last night after being granted a safe

Kuwait call for more British trade

Beirut, "There are still crucial gaps to be settled."

Mr Zuhair Molsen, a Palestinian guerrilla leader and member of Syria's ruling Baath Party, told reporters in Beirut that he "expects" the mandate's renewal. "This will take place more than once so long as the (military) situation requires that the Middle East conflict remain frozen until we are in a position to reactivate it," Mr Molsen said.

Diplomats in Damascus have been predicting for some time that Syria would have to renew the mandate because it is not in a position to risk a war against Israel on its own.

Dr Waldheim has also been sounding out Israeli and Syrian leaders on possible future peace conditions for discussing peace to Jordan leaders after his first round of talks with President Assad last week. He is now taking the Israeli response back to Damascus.—UPI.

Kurds settle back in their Iraqi homes rebuilt after last year's fighting

From Edward Mortimer
Baghdad, Nov 26

A year ago I went to Iraq Kurdistan at the invitation of Mullah Mustafa Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which was then holding out a long strip of mountainous territory along the Iranian and Turkish frontiers against the offensive of the central Government in Baghdad.

Last week I returned to the same territory as the invitation of the Iraq Government. Being shown round by an official of the Information Ministry and by the local brigade commander, I was told that I could go anywhere I liked. I asked to visit the precise area in which I had stayed last year, that is the Balak valley leading up from Rawanduz to the Iranian frontier. This was the area of the KDP's administrative headquarters for its "liberated area."

My main concern was to find out what had happened in the Iraq Kurds since the collapse of Mullah Mustafa's rebellion had left them completely at the mercy of the Baghdad Government.

If I was only partly successful in this, it was not for lack of cooperation on the part of the Iraq authorities. It was partly because I had only a very short time at my disposal, partly because I had to rely on government officials as interpreters, and partly because many policy decisions made by the Iraq Government, or rather by the all-powerful Revolutionary Command Council, are not formally announced. Therefore any Iraq official may be aware of only a given decision in so far as it directly affects his own work.

I was able to see, however, that at least a substantial part of the Kurdish population has now returned to the mountain towns and villages, and many of the houses and other buildings destroyed during the fighting have been or are being rebuilt.

The Kurdish language is still in use. I was assured that it is still the main language of instruction in local schools. If to prove this, a group of schoolboys encountered me in the village of Derband were reciting physics and history textbooks in Kurdish. They spoke Arabic only hesitantly and had difficulty making themselves understood by my Arab interpreter.

Kurds in various places appear to interpret without apparent inhibition, freely admitting for instance, to paying little before the government forces into the "liberated area" and, since returning, now the capital of the official "autonomous area," said the family and friends went, indeed virtually the whole population of the city.

Why did they go? "Because Mullah Mustafa told us that the Government's autonomy law was a sham, and we would all be massacred."

Why did he think all the fighting had happened? It was a complicated story, he said, "but the main cause of the fighting was Mullah Mustafa's leadership." Yes, especially when he gave in so easily to them.

The young man added that he was grateful to the Government for exempting the Kurds from military service. This meant that he would be going straight from secondary school into a Civil Service job at the beginning of next year.

Nine years jail for Afrikaans poet

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 25

Mr Breyten Breytenbach, the Afrikaans writer and poet, was today jailed for nine years in the Pretoria Supreme Court for taking part in "terrorist activities."

The sentence was imposed despite a plea by Dr Percy Yutar, the Attorney-General of the Transvaal, who led the prosecution, for the minimum sentence—five years—to be passed on Mr Breytenbach.

Mr Breytenbach showed no signs of emotion when sentence was passed. Nor did members of his family, who were present in the courtroom. It is not known whether an appeal will be made.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Cillie said the seriousness of Mr Breytenbach's crime had decided the length of his sentence. The poet's activities have been a serious threat to the safety of the state and peace and coexistence in South Africa.

Referring to the public apology which Mr Breytenbach made in court yesterday, the judge said he believed his testimony of regret was genuine. It also took into account that Breytenbach's crime—the formation of an organization known as "Atlas," or "Osaka," whose aim was to overthrow South African Government—never got beyond the discussion stage. However, violence could have resulted from the poet's actions, he said.

Earlier Dr Yutar, summing up, said that Mr Breytenbach who has been through the trial as idealist and a dreamer, was the leader of the "Atlas" organization but merely "pawns" in a game played by outsiders. "He was misled by others and they took advantage of him through his close emotional ties with his own country."

He claimed that the poet, in which Mr Breytenbach involved had recruited in the fertile fields of the Transvaal, National Union of South African Students, churches and trade unions, number of young students had been trapped by the bait of anti-South African propaganda abroad.

"They were tempted foreign trips and then came in contact with permissiveness and liberalism. These young men were then sent back to South Africa with dreams of becoming the saviours of the republic."

He went on: "Breytenbach in a Dutchman who alleged to be the driving force behind Atlas, and the poet leaders hid in their skunkholes in Europe while the students were pushed into the fight."

Dr Yutar announced that everyone who had been dealing in connection with the Breytenbach case would be released forthwith. Five detainees were given evidence for the state was all granted immunity.

Mr Breytenbach is the third poet to be sentenced under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts this month.

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OVERSEAS

Four gunmen killed as Dacca kidnap attempt on Indian envoy fails

Calcutta, Nov. 26.—The Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh was shot and wounded in Dacca today as police and security guards foiled an attempt to kidnap him, Bangladesh officials said.

Four of the six armed kidnappers died and two were wounded and captured in the abortive attempt to seize Mr. Samar Sen, aged 61, outside his office. They were alleged to belong to the pro-Peking National Socialist Party.

Commission in London said in a statement—also broadcast by Bangladesh radio—that the diplomat suffered a minor bullet wound in the arm. The bullet was removed in hospital and he is being treated as being "out of danger".

A distinguished civil servant and diplomat, Mr. Sen who is Oxford-educated, has served as ambassador to Pakistan and as Indian permanent representative at the United Nations. He has a son and two daughters.

The Bangladesh mission in London quoted a government spokesman as saying that the "kidnap attempt" would "suffer" exemplary punishment. Five revolvers had been recovered.

The kidnap attempt, he said, was engineered by certain anti-Indian elements with the ulterior motive of damaging the existing bonds of friendship between India and Bangladesh.

Army officers and the Bangladesh police chief went to the High Commission after the incident and security measures were tightened. Mr. Abu Saïd, a Bangladeshi, sent India a message expressing shock and concern.

The Indian Government also expressed deep shock. It said that it took a very serious view of the attack. The Government dispatched an aircraft to Dacca to take Mr. Sen to India.

The incident seems certain to exacerbate the already strained relations between India and Bangladesh.

Mr Fraser's deputy opens party campaign

Brisbane, Nov. 26.—Mr. Douglas Anthony, Deputy Prime Minister, tonight opened the Liberal-National Country Party election campaign with an attack on the United Labour administration, describing it as a corrupt government which had destroyed Australia's economic security.

He told a cheering rally that the Government's policy of "prosperity, productive Australia" had been rejected by Labour in an inflation-busting, debt-burdened country.

Mr. Anthony, leader of the rural-based National Country Party, spoke at Mr. Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister, was recovering from a severe bout of influenza which caused the cancellation of a nationwide address last night.

Mr. Anthony, whose address was much more restrained than the normal Country Party speech, declared: "We can't afford the cost of inflation and its crippling inflation and its massive bureaucracy. The great task of this election is to put Australia back on its feet, to restore good management, to repair a damaged nation, to put men and women back to work, to fight inflation, to remove stagnation, to rebuild confidence, to revive national growth."

Recalling the events that led to the sacking of Mr. Whitlam, the Labour Prime Minister, Mr. Anthony said: "Nothing—not the sacking of a prime minister, not the defiance of a parliament, not the votes of a senate—rubs the wound of democracy, to stability, to our enjoyment of life, that is raised by inflation."

If the coalition came to power it would support the extension of the country's fishing zone from 12 to 200 miles, Mr. Anthony added. The move would be considered in the new international climate.

Official estimates were that about 400 foreign vessels fished within 200 miles of the coast in 1974-75, and of these 13 were arrested inside Australia's declared 12-mile zone. Ten were Taiwanese and three Indonesian.

They would also introduce secret ballots for the election of trade union officials in an attempt to get bigger votes and end control of unions by communists. A national energy council would be set up to determine energy reserves and encourage research into alternative energy sources, including solar energy.

In Melbourne, Mr. Fraser left his sickbed to give a press conference in the grounds of his home at which he launched a renewed attack on the Government. "I'm feeling fine," Mr. Fraser complained that a journalist had leaked his policy speech to Labour.

Mr. Whitlam hit the backbeat trail today, travelling from the Western Australian capital of Perth to Alice Springs in the heart of the continent and to Darwin in the north. He told a Darwin rally 30,000 that there was a certain ironic note about the election campaign. He said that from April, 1973, when the coalition first made up its mind to set aside the democratic will of the people and force an election, the Country Party had had to waddle the Liberal dog.

Lords affirm wide interpretation of tax avoidance law

Inland Revenue Commissioners v. Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Edmund-Davies.

The House of Lords, applying the principle that the statutory provisions must be given a wide and general interpretation, affirmed a decision of the Inland Revenue Commissioners that a taxpayer who had obtained a tax advantage as a result of a transaction or transactions in securities was liable to surtax for 1964-65, by virtue of section 463 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1962, on the basis that he had obtained a tax advantage as a result of a transaction or transactions in securities.

Before the special commissioners he contended that the transactions relating to the liquidation were "transactions in securities" as defined in section 463(1). They included the notice, but Mr. Justice Goffman, sitting alone, held that the liquidation agreement altered the rights attached to the company's shares and thus came within the definition of a transaction in securities for the purposes of section 463 and in consequence of that surtax was payable.

The Court of Appeal held that a distribution of surplus assets to shareholders in the course of a liquidation was a transaction in securities within section 463.

Mr. F. Heworth Talbot, QC, and Mr. A. L. P. Jones, QC, for the taxpayer, contended that the liquidation was not a transaction in securities within section 463. Mr. C. H. Brown-Wilkinson, QC, and Mr. Brian Davenport for the Revenue.

LORD WILBERFORCE said that the appeal arose under section 463 of the 1962 Act which required that a taxpayer who obtained a tax advantage as a result of a transaction or transactions in securities was liable to surtax. The taxpayer contended that the liquidation was not a transaction in securities within section 463.

In order to succeed the Revenue had to show that the liquidation was a transaction in securities within section 463. The taxpayer contended that the liquidation was not a transaction in securities within section 463.

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Muzorewa group condemns Nkomo-Smith talks

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Nov. 26.

The faction of the African National Council supporting Bishop Abel Muzorewa has strongly condemned any possible settlement agreement which may be reached between the Rhodesian Government and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the other faction of the council.

The Rev. Max Chigvida, the publicity secretary of the Muzorewa faction, said that the recent preliminary talks between Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, were a betrayal of the majority of the black Rhodesians and that Muzorewa's faction would not accept any possible agreement.

"Mr. Nkomo's achievement will not be binding upon the majority of the people whose mandate he does not have," Mr. Chigvida said. He added that the Muzorewa faction would not accept any possible agreement.

Asked if the Muzorewa faction would accept a government invitation to attend a conference, Mr. Chigvida said that that would depend on a number of factors including whether it was recognized as the ANC which represented the majority of the country's blacks.

Peking students criticize education policy

From David Bonavia Peking, Nov. 26.

A faction of staff and students at Peking University has severely criticized Mr. Chou Tung-hua, the Minister of Education.

Wall posters at the university campus have attacked Mr. Chou together with Mr. Liu Ping, leading administrator of the city's other big university.

The allegations against both men are not clear, but it seems that they are accused of opposing the policy of bringing higher education to wider strata of the workers and post-education.

The new dispute about education has been here since the summer. It echoes a similar debate which broke out in the national press and broadcasting media early last year. The main issue was the selection of students and the sending of qualified academic workers to lecture and solve technical problems in production units.

Aircraft builders to stand trial for DC 10 disaster

Los Angeles, Nov. 26.—A federal judge has ruled in Los Angeles that the makers of the DC10 airliner must stand trial early next year for last year's crash which killed 345 in the worst air disaster in history.

Senior Judge Peterson Hall, impatient at the slowness with which out-of-court settlements were being reached for families of the victims, set an unspecified trial date next spring.

On trial will be McDonnell Douglas, makers of the aircraft, General Dynamics, makers of the crashed aircraft's fuselage, and the United States Federal Aviation Administration which certified the plane.

This case has been going on for six months, and there has been no progress," he said. "We might as well go ahead and try it."

The judge's ruling does not prevent out-of-court settlements being reached.

Russian rocket puts U.S. carrots in orbit

Moscow, Nov. 26.—A consignment of American carrots and fish eggs has been put into orbit by a Soviet rocket in the first joint space experiment since last summer's Apollo-Soyuz manned flight.

Tass said today that the satellite, Cosmos-782, which was launched yesterday also contained experiments from the Soviet Union, France and Czechoslovakia.

The satellite will remain in orbit for 22 days. The experiments are designed to measure the effects of radiation and weightlessness on living organisms. They also include a batch of rats to be examined by American and Soviet scientists.

Tass said the satellite was orbiting between 253 and 142 miles above the Earth, close to the height generally chosen for manned orbital missions.

Statement on Zionism is defended by WCC

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Nov. 26.

The recent statement by the World Council of Churches calling on the United Nations General Assembly to rescind its resolution condemning Zionism was defended today by Dr. Philip Potter, the WCC general secretary.

The first attempt to raise the matter came when Dr. Potter presented his report to the WCC assembly. Bishop Athanasios of Souf Beni, of the Egyptian Coptic Church, attempted to ask Dr. Potter to explain why his statement had been made without consultation with member churches.

Bishop Athanasios ruled out of order. Dr. Potter said that there had been "constant" consultation with churches in the Middle East and with different groups in that area. The

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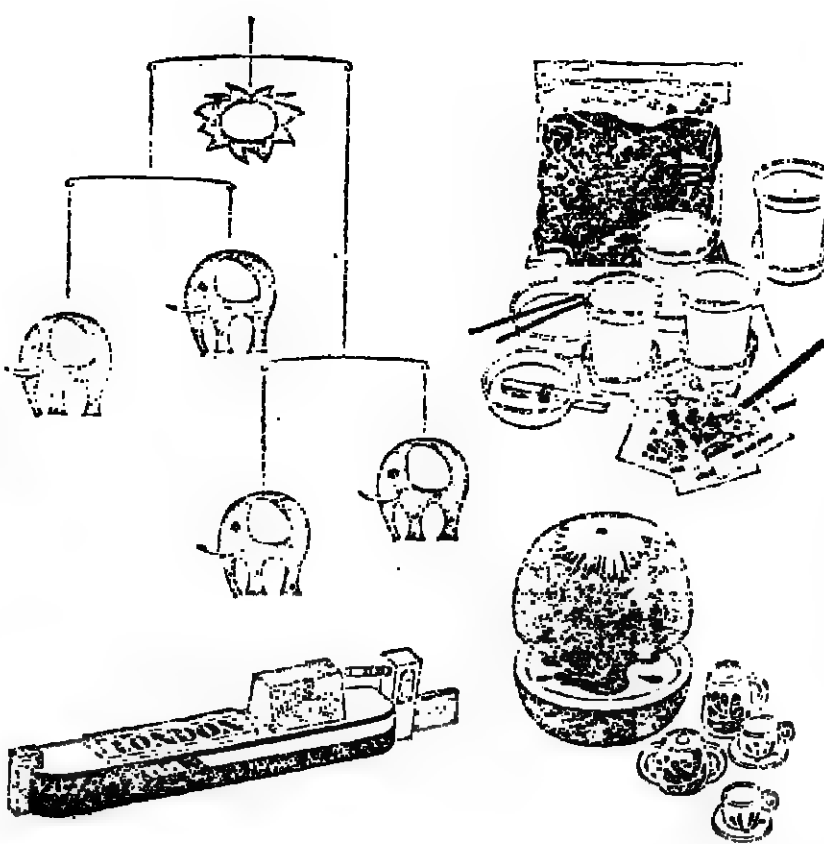
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Christmas Shopping/Philippa Toomey & Ion Trewin

Below: Bricks (63 in the set), £4.56 (60p), Bricks + Towers (99-piece set) £6.98 (84p) Skyscrapers, £3.30 (48p), Bag for bricks (not shown) 65p (12p). All from Beaver Toys, Marlborough, Wilts (Marlborough 2513)



Cheerful green and yellow felt mobile, £1.50 (20p) Cucina, Garden set, boxed (not shown) containing soil, pots, bits and bobs and five quick-growing plants at 99p, Heal's. Red wooden apple 2 1/2 in high, containing wooden teaset, £1.15 (15p) Cucina. Little wooden barge, charmingly painted, £1.55, Heal's.



Give them the tools they will do the job. The "them" and "they" rather than the Churchillian "us" and "we" are invariably the men of the house, although why doing-it-yourself should be thought of as a predominantly male occupation has long puzzled me. A woodwork teacher once said in my hearing that women, once they had learnt the necessary skills, were far more precise joiners and cabinet makers.

But I digress. Tools, even the most mundane hammer or screwdriver, have always made acceptable presents. In fact you can never have enough screwdrivers. My own personal stock check at the weekend showed I have nine—of varying sizes and with only one redundant. Certainly the older ones have been bashed around; the largest, with a cracked wooden handle, is held together with insulating tape, but I wouldn't dream of throwing it away. Its bent and twisted shaft reveals that it is more often used for prising things apart than driving screws, but it is invaluable.

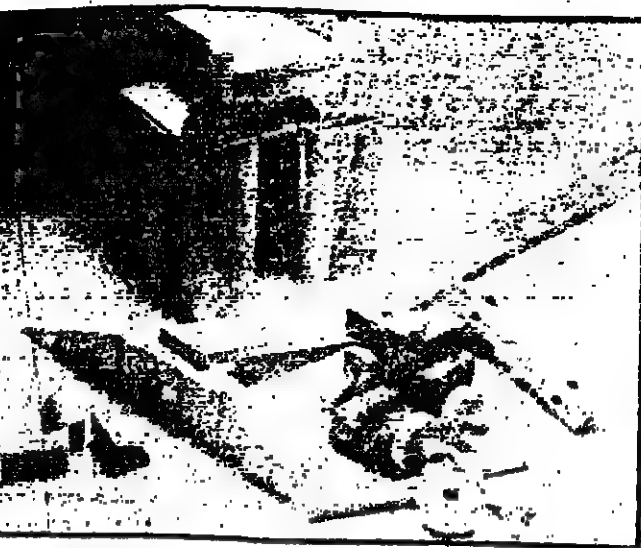
If there is one message to the spouse buying for the handyman in the house it is—buy the best. The more expensive drill or saw is much more likely to last, and be appreciated by the user. One selection is a contribution towards a basic tool kit. No handyman will object to an extra screwdriver: in fact I have my eyes on the Mason Master Roll-lock Dual Purpose Driver because of its adaptability for straight slot and crosshead screws, and an ability to take countersinks or drill bits if they have a 1/16 in shaft. It has the advantage of being multi-purpose.

You can't go wrong with hammers either. I broke two while working on our Norfolk cottage because they were too small for the job. I'm now better equipped with a large claw hammer, but I still covet the Stanley Steelmaster shown above. The other basic item in any DIY cupboard has to be a saw. The novice must quell at the range, but for starters I plump for a handsaw and a tenon saw. I've yet to make an extended trial of the Teflon-coated non-stick range, but if they are smoother and less wearing to use, I shall soon be a convert.

Until I had a power drill it seemed a luxury, now its absence would be like losing a limb. My Black and Decker is six years old, has done all I've asked if it, taken untold battering and has yet to complain, even when worked at the wrong speed for a particular job. Gradually, at Christmas and birthdays, my wife has brought me attachments, and I now boast a circular saw, a sander and most recently a hedge clipper. But best of all I would choose each as a self-powered tool, particularly the double-sided hedge trimmer (the D450 is £21.25).

But gifts for the handyman don't have to be expensive. I would like to see a self-powered (80p a punnet), which claims to fill everything from plaster to concrete and glass to stone. I've just tried it on an aged and cracked window sill that takes the brunt of the sun each summer. Our builder said it would be better to replace the sill, but I've tried the Terron. It has taken undercoat and gloss paint without any problems and I reckon the problem has been solved.

The basic home workshop needs to be suitably stored within reach. If you have made do so I have with spring clips and nails in the past, you need do so no longer. The tools on the wall are hanging from Black and Decker's Clipstor system, which consists of aluminium rail (endlessly extendable) and nine different attachments. The Clipstor kit costs £4.95, with extra rails and attachments available. From left to right on the Clipstor: Planerform Surform, £2.73; B & D Jigsaw, £11.45; Stanley 20 in Handsaw, £4.06; Tenon saw, £3.99; Hand drill, £6.38; B & D power drill, £11.45; Steelmaster Hammer, £5. In London the best tool merchants I know are Buck and Ryan, 101 Tottenham Court Road, W1, whence all these are available, as are the items on the table, from left to right, Polycell Paint Pad Kit, which makes paint brushes obsolete for emulsion work, £2.95; Mason Master Roll-lock screwdriver, £2.70; Stanley 6 in driver, 95p; Yankee spiral ratchet driver, £4.50; 8 in driver, £1.77; B & D power sander, £11.45; Claw hammer £2.45; and Chisels, 1 in £1.45, 1 1/2 in £2.22.



Above: Frog Prince—pottery by Charles Stone, at £4.20 one of a collection of equally delightful pieces at Heal's

Drawings by Norman Messenger. Cartoons, Nigel Paige

Bear, 12 in tall, from Chad Valley, £5 from Heal's and others

Goose paper lantern (takes 4 watt bulb), also tiger, kitten, tigger and duck, £2.95. Three cut-out rag dolls, £1.66 (50p) from Cucina. Unusually hedgehog, 90p, Heal's.

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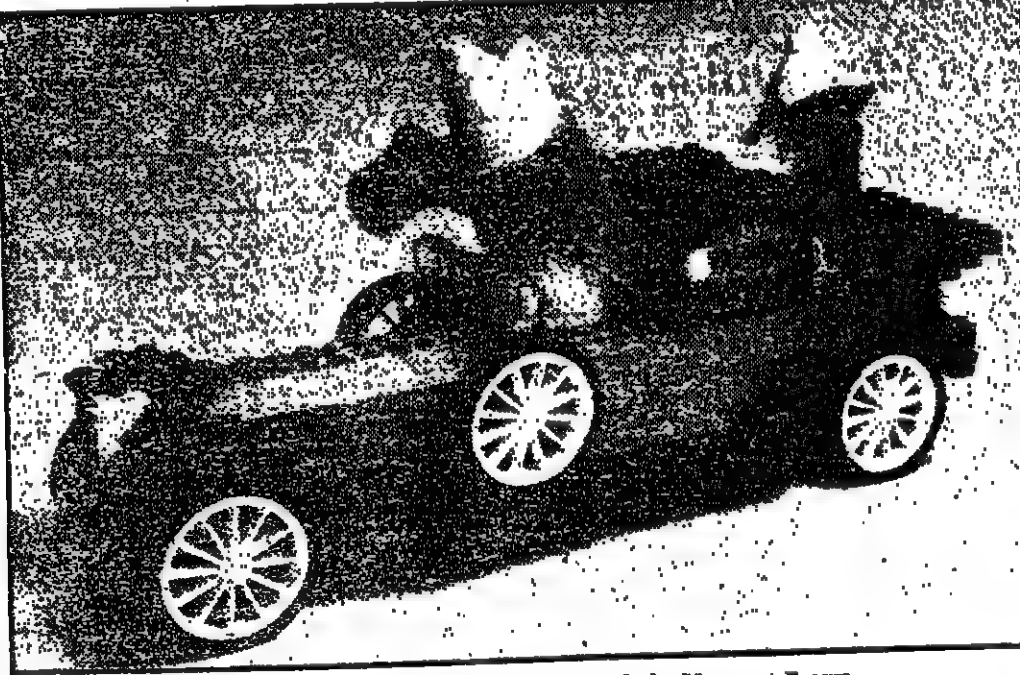
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Two middle-class mice, 3 1/2 in tall, handmade by Margaret Brown, £1 each, Heal's, in 1936 Reassault to Lego. (Super set, generally available, in wooden box, £15.95).

"I want to buy an oil well", said the pin-striped man at the counter. What's more, he could—but this was in Hamleys, where the Christmas rush is in full swing. It was always one of my ambitions to be let loose in a toyshop, and on the hottest day of last summer Hamleys opened after hours and we had a preview of Christmas joys. It was a delightful evening, with all the staff playing with their charges, and I fell desperately for a toy otter, almost life-size in cream and brown fur fabric, for £6.45.

The trouble with toys as presents is that you can never tell what will be unreasonably adored and what will be discarded and never looked at again. A basic bear (as shown) and basic bricks are necessities. The set of illustrated from Beaver Toys of Marlborough is not only beautifully made of beechwood, but allows for almost endless permutations and combinations—turning corners, making ramps and roadways, ships and skyscrapers, and

if thrown would prove handy missiles. The basic bear, wearing a trendy little neck chain, won everyone's hearts even meriting that final accolade, a pat on the head from the Editor. Bear is expensive, at £5—half that for example, have very nice little bears for 45p—but for charm and workmanship you always pay more.

There are some really expensive things about—I'm sure they are "granny" toys, in that grandparents go mad and buy them—and one is a baby donkey (at £24 odd), almost life sized, a charming and adorable creature with floppy legs, quite unplayable with the only thing you could do with enjoyment is take it to bed, which is never a particularly satisfactory alternative, at any age. Life-sized lions, St Bernards, even Afghan hounds are at Hamleys, and there is an old-fashioned rocking horse, properly dappled, with mane and tail at £125 at Heal's.

For older children, the Priscilla Lobley Flower kits are nice—they are generally available, and include giant sunflowers at £4.20, tissue roses at £1.75, and a bouquet of mixed roses at £3.60.

As little presents for stockings, Chatter & Windus's Peepshows are two fairy tales, Little Red Riding Hood and The Sleeping Beauty, which adopt the pop-up technique to provide a five-sided panorama of the story, at 95p each, and there is Another. Another. Another and More by Marion Walter (André Deutsch, £1.95) which is an ingenious puzzle book containing two sets of plastic mirrors to increase and alter the images on the page. Then there is Cuckoo Castle (Macmillan) £1.25, one in a charming series

of wordless stories in pictures by John S. Goodall, this time of a pair of medieval mice, the lady in a fetching wimple—wish tiny deeds of derring-do.

Buying Lego is like buying bread—everyone needs it—and there are always new kits to buy, including the Lego Nursery Bricks, for children from 18 months up. The bricks are on the same principle as Lego (and fit the smaller size) but are many times larger and therefore impossible to swallow, but just as painful to step on. Sets range from £1.10 to £3.75.

Tonka Toys claim that an elephant can step on their products without any damage being done. There must be few households that keep an elephant, but their range of trucks, bulldozers, and cars in sizes ranging from Mighty (18 in-34 in) down to Tiny (4 in-7 in) are very attractive, in cheerful colours. I particularly liked the Mighty Tonka Dozer, a bulldozer at £12.98, and there's a lorry-mounted crane at £9.55 which would provide hours of occupation. Prices of Tiny Tonkas start at 72p.

For grown-ups whose stock of seasonal goodwill is totally exhausted, there is More Bear by Patsy Simmons (Mayflower, 40p), further adventures of the lecherous teddy who wouldn't be seen dead in a stocking unless someone was wearing it at the time; and at 45p from Hamleys, a shark for the bath.

All the items illustrated are available by post. Cucina is at 8, England's Lane, London, NW3. Heal's deliver free within a radius of 30 miles of the Tottenham Court Road, otherwise add 38p to orders under £3, 68p to orders from £3-£25, over £25, postage free.

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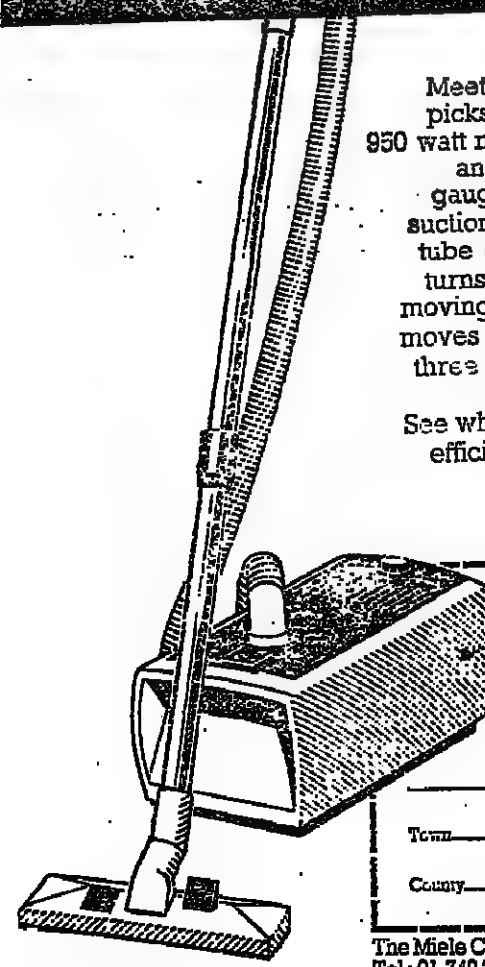
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Ronald Butt

Class, equality and Mr Crosland

What Mr Anthony Crosland has to say about matters of political philosophy is always interesting and at a crucial moment in the argument between Labour's right and left, he has just published as a pamphlet (*Fabian Tract 438*) a lecture which he gave a few weeks ago in Costa Rica about the nature of social democracy in Europe.

It is remarkable, first, for its unambiguous statement that a substantial private sector is not simply to be tolerated in the name of gradualism, or of carrying consent (which is the implication that most Labour politicians like to convey), but is in itself absolutely indispensable to political liberty.

Not only does he find the Marxist thesis of the public ownership of the means of production, exchange and distribution, but he also asserts: "A mixed economy is essential to social democracy. For while a substantial public sector is clearly needed to give us the necessary control over the economy, complete state socialism is with-out question incompatible with liberty and democracy." (my italics) No Tory could be more categorical.

So if total public ownership is incompatible with liberty, what is social democracy really about? Mr Crosland's answer is again, as in his previous writings, that it is about equality, and he defines equality in terms that ought to be rigorously scrutinized.

To Mr Crosland, the new brand of "rightism" (as he calls it) which preaches "equality" is based either on the belief that greater equality requires higher taxation, and therefore more bureaucracy, or on the argument that incentives are needed to promote efficiency in a mixed economy. Where he really gives his broken logic away is in his attitude to "incentives".

Mr Crosland concedes that the redistribution of all incomes over £5,000 would make little difference to working people. The case for more equality, he says, is based "not on any direct material gain to the poor but on the claims of social and natural justice". Leaving aside whether it would give the poor any real satisfaction, except in spiteful terms, to remove well-being from others with virtually no gain to themselves, it really is important to challenge Mr Crosland on his concept of "natural justice".

The case for adequate rewards and differentials is surely not simply, or chiefly, one of crude money incentives (though that comes into it) but of contribution to living appropriate to their role. Mr Crosland bases his case on "natural justice" but you could as well base it on "social justice" as the sort of justice which does not, by the power of sheer weight of numbers collectively applied, inhibit the natural capacity of certain individuals to obtain for themselves a certain sort of life and certain standards.

Mr Crosland defines what Tories call the "politics of envy" as "no more and no less than a socialist rejection of the claims of the wealthy to a wholly unearned privilege", but he nowhere defines with any clarity what he means by wealthy. Does he mean the very rich, the millionaires or semi-millionaires or the few others who, by accident of wealth still to be rich, in ordinary terms, after taxation has done with them? At one point he talks about the "grossly excessive sumptuary spending of the wealthy" classes, so one might suppose that what worries him is really lush living and if this is so, one has little quarrel with him.

But, of course, this is not the real argument. The whole burden of this lecture makes it clear that his real targets are the middle range of reasonably well-remunerated people, living on earned incomes, not for the most part having very lush lives, but having enough if at the appropriate time they choose to avoid spending on luxuries, to be able to do certain important things for themselves.

They may, of course, make it for their children's school, provide pretty providently for their pensions and health insurance and buy their own houses. They are people who, if this is their interest, are sure to buy Alan Hamilton, in America for the World Monopoly Championship, spend a night in the bankrupt city of New York, to see if luck of cash really was bringing life to a standstill. It reports:

Immigration officers as a rule belong to the boot-faced end of the human race, but not at Kennedy Airport, New York. You another of these crazy Monopolists? asked this one with a wry amusement. Well, John (the first name in my passport) "you just go right ahead and have a great time here." Then he saw my country of birth on my documents, "My great grandfather came from Dundee," he said proudly.

The best direction to take in Dundee, I quipped. He laughed loudly; with human immigration officers, the place could not be all bad.

Next stop, the customs, confronted with a very large notice: "Patience please: drug-free America comes first." These people are nothing if not polite. The customs man, however, about the size of Wembley stadium, and contains almost all the baggage handlers, customs officials and policemen as passengers. It is very efficient, but it must be expensive.

Outside, I bought a New York Daily News, which carried on the first of its 120 tabloid pages



some books and sometimes go to concerts or the theatre. In the end, the argument is about the position of these people and about what natural justice has to say about their natural right to fulfil themselves—and above all about whether they will do their job in society effectively if they are not allowed to fulfil themselves. Nobody suggests that they will deliberately opt not to do a satisfying job properly for lack of incentives; it is a question of what happens to their psychological effectiveness if they are harassed.

Mr Crosland feels strongly about the middle classes. Nothing with apparent disapproval that whatever is spent on education, the character of the output depends largely on the character of the children entering it, he concludes that the middle classes are doing too well out of social spending. We have, he says, "underestimated the capacity of the middle classes to use their political skills to appropriate more than their fair share of public expenditure."

He then lists their misdeeds, complaining "vociferously" if they have to wait for their operations, demanding better computer services, or better schools for their children. They are wrong if they can manage to look after some of these things for themselves; they are even more wrong if, being forced by Mr Crosland to use the services, they try to improve them. Is what he really wants the silent, acquiescent uncomplaining queue? Do not such complaints help everybody? Would it not be as true to say that anybody who justifiably complained about these things would be "middle class" in attitude, whatever his position in society—and wouldn't that be a good thing?

One of the many important lessons of the two miners' strikes was that the Government, this "left" of knowledge prompted wrong decisions that could have been avoided. Presumably, the present Government has a rather better intelligence service in the labour movement, and will not make the same mistakes.

But in the wake of last week's defeat of leading candidates in the battle for leadership of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, there is bound to be an increased clamour for universal extension of the postal ballot by legislation. If it is, it will be a trade union election. It is an emotive issue, and the politicians' ignorance of the facts means we are likely to be in for a fresh bout of confusion, misinformation and double-talk.

The timely publication today of a new study of democracy in British and American trade unions points up our minimal state of knowledge of the subject. *Comparative Union Democracy* by J. David Edelstein, professor of sociology at Syracuse University, New York, and Malcolm Warner, a leading British industrial sociologist, examines the level of electoral opposition in 31 predominantly blue-collar unions in the United Kingdom and investigates in detail the voting system of the miners and the engineers. They conclude that British unions are more democratic than their American counterparts, though neither system is perfect.

The significance of the book, which is more sociological than political, is that it asks unhesitatingly the questions that politicians often ignore in what passes for a debate on postal balloting; and they provide some of the answers. Though they are understandably a bit coy about admitting it (it

British foreign policy is changing rapidly, a country White Paper on the subject will make clear. It took a long time after the last war to find our place in the modern scheme of things. Now that we have done so, the Foreign Office is taking new bearings.

We do not feel so superior as we used to do, we are trying to make ourselves agreeable to people who can help us—the Arabs, the Latin Americans—and the chief task of policy, in the eyes of those who direct it, is to conduct our foreign relations so as to help the country pay its way.

The biggest change, of course, is membership of the European Community. For all its infuriating mixture, one part idealism to five parts frustration, the Community represents a "role" which Britain finally found after giving up the empire.

But how far foreign policy is "made" by the Foreign Office, and how far it just grows in response to all the events and pressures day by day, is hard to say. Every morning, a vast quantity of telegrams from our

posts abroad, despatches, letters and minutes flow into the Foreign Office—750,000 papers a year. The traffic is intense, despite efforts to reduce it and a less formal, more cheery way of doing things compared with older days. This paper flows via the messengers (who move from anyone else in the Foreign Office its final resting place) to the desks of the different departments.

The rule in the foreign service, so young diplomats are advised, is to take decisions at the lowest level possible. A new desk knows that on almost every conceivable subject there is an existing policy, and one should act within it. If one cannot act, one should talk.

Then if action is not possible, a proposal may be put up to the next in line, for his consideration. Anything of major importance would have to go on up to the Permanent Under-Secretary, and if it goes as far as that, it would have to be approved by ministers. But ministers are busy people so there is a certain tendency to avoid over-loading their despatch boxes.

This is where the politics of foreign policy comes in. The Foreign Secretary may have his own ideas, and what is more, is responsible in the Commons for what happens. Though the Foreign Office is an efficient machine for processing paperwork, and though the P.U.S. with morning meetings of deputy and assistant under-secretaries turning the globe around in their cerebral way, may know much more about foreign affairs than any politician, no one in control, whether it's a Labour or a Conservative government.

How this manifests itself may tell the P.U.S. what he wants directly, or he might simply scribble a comment on the margin of a brief, or he may work through his private office. One way or another, the Labour Party, which has lately taken a much closer interest in foreign affairs than the Conservatives, goes so far as to set out foreign policy in its election manifesto, and even tries to bind its ministers in advance, has its own likes and dislikes. The latter include Spain, South Africa and, the most recent outlet for outraged sentiment, Chile (but not, it seems, Brazil).

Ministers, however, realise how little freedom of manoeuvre like Britain has. Deprived, at one end of the scale, of the thrust of power, and denied at the other extreme, the indulgence of cocking a snook at your elders, as enjoyed by small countries, Britain has to rely on her only asset: persuasion.

What is remarkable is how many countries still seem to take us seriously. The Russians are forever butting up Britain's ministers, urging them to make the British voice heard, a theme which President Sadat recently sounded very strongly, for reasons of his own. And membership of the Commonwealth, alongside the membership of the European Community, does give Britain a rather special place as an interlocutor—as shown for instance in Mr Wilson's new plan for row materials, launched this summer.

There is not all that much time to think, especially when the Foreign Secretary spends so much time abroad. In 1975, for example, Mr Callaghan will have been away for no less than 95 days—plus at least two visits a month to his constituency in Cardiff.

A modern Foreign Minister finds himself dashing off to meetings almost every week. The result is that the Foreign

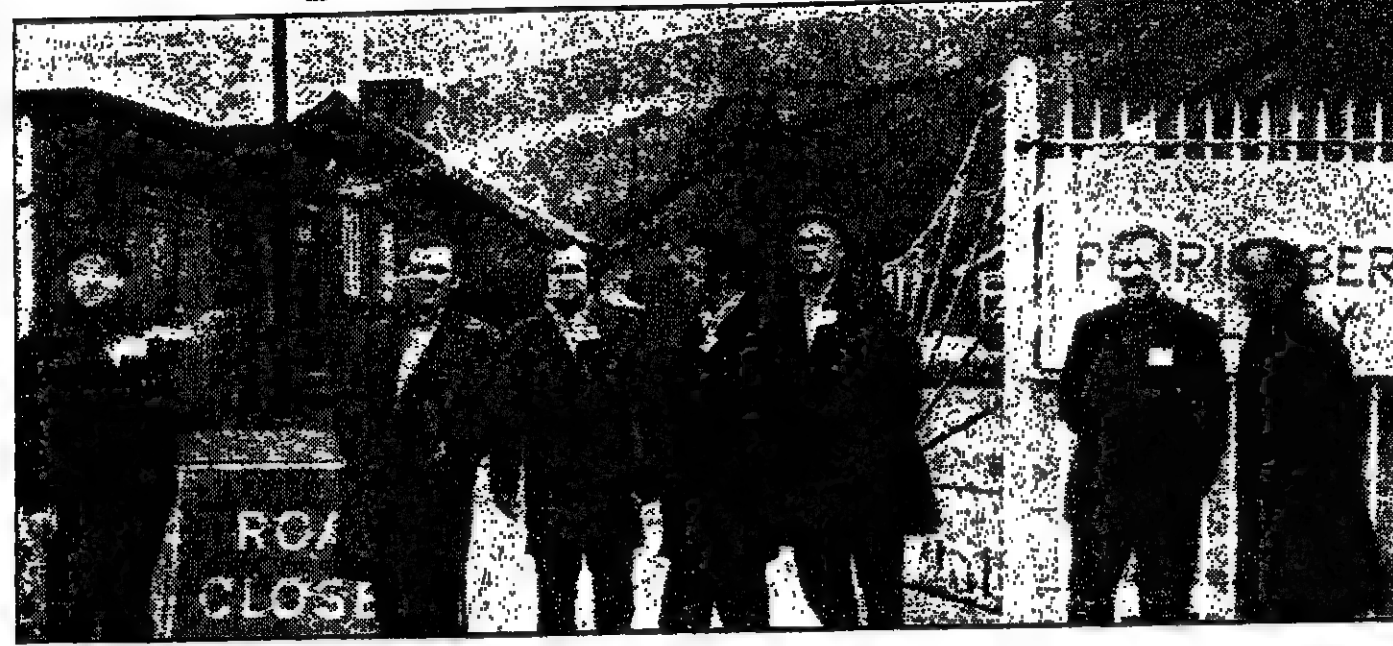
Ministers of the Nine know each other very well indeed and the discussions and decisions they make together—though they do not always seek to find a common position—do have a considerable influence on each other's thinking. (Then something goes wrong, as in Mr Callaghan's outburst over the British outburst over the producers' and consumers' difference, it stands out all the more starkly.)

Some people, not altogether cynically, suggest we should have a "policy" as all we should say is "yes" or "no" as they occur. If that is what happens most of the time, we still have to live with our own history.

As British power has ebbed away, a new power has risen out of the new terrain of Rhodesia, Belize, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar—places where Britain still has responsibility without power. They cause the Foreign Office more trouble than all the rest of the ongoing process of diplomacy put together.

(Concluded)
David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent

Postal ballots: Answers to the questions politicians prefer to ignore



Welsh miners picketing a colliery in February last year.

One of the many important lessons of the two miners' strikes was that the Government, this "left" of knowledge prompted wrong decisions that could have been avoided. Presumably, the present Government has a rather better intelligence service in the labour movement, and will not make the same mistakes.

But in the wake of last week's defeat of leading candidates in the battle for leadership of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, there is bound to be an increased clamour for universal extension of the postal ballot by legislation. If it is, it will be a trade union election. It is an emotive issue, and the politicians' ignorance of the facts means we are likely to be in for a fresh bout of confusion, misinformation and double-talk.

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The significance of the book, which is more sociological than political, is that it asks unhesitatingly the questions that politicians often ignore in what passes for a debate on postal balloting; and they provide some of the answers. Though they are understandably a bit coy about admitting it (it

public at any rate), many of those who favour universal postal ballots want democracy. But they do not actually take the pains of power.

Mr Prior, the shadow Employment Secretary, has conceded privately that the Conservatives' manifesto pledge to facilitate postal ballots was intended to swing the electoral pendulum back to the right, thus diminishing the unions' political impact. It is as well to be clear about this point before the argument gets underway in earnest.

Mr Foot, the Employment Secretary, has said that the Government will consider paying for the (not inconsiderable) bill for postal balloting, if and when the TUC asks for this facility. The TUC shows no such inclination at present, being more preoccupied with the growing army of unemployed. And that is where Edelstein and Warner's revealing investigation comes in. Going back over elections of the last 20 years, they found that opposition in voting for top office was "more frequent and successful than many observers thought possible". They also decided that the absence of open political factions and restraints on electioneering such as the general prohibition on canvassing depressed the level of democracy.

Examining the engineering workers' system, they discovered that only 710,000 members (65 per cent of the membership) were on the voting register, partly because some left-wing branch secretaries had "refused to cooperate in registering" but chiefly because a

large number of secretaries were simply inefficient. Rather ingeniously, they add: "It seems that the new (voting) system was not a failure to close the ranks of the party." The weeks of detail about the NUM electoral system which politicians would find instructive study material unfortunately concentrates almost exclusively on the election of full-time national officials, missing the point that the real key to the political direction of the miners is the composition of the national executive. In this case, it is the moderates who have insisted on continuing representation of the "rotten borough" counties like Cumberland and North Wales, so that their inbuilt majority on the executive is undisturbed. Frequent attempts by the Yorkshire miners to have the issue of democracy on the executive debated at a conference have been vetoed on technicalities. If these tactics were the work of the left, they would be mercilessly exposed by the media as ruthless gerrymandering; but of course this does not happen.

Postal balloting of a membership that is well-informed and interested in the affairs of the union is clearly more democratic and preferable to voting in a poorly attended branch meeting, but Edelstein and Warner are perhaps at their most convincing when they argue that the absence of open political factions and restraints on electioneering such as the general prohibition on canvassing depressed the level of democracy.

However, they are even slower if the pressure for change is external. The elevation of trade union elections into prime material for newspaper campaigns will very seriously ensure that they are a serious issue in the next general election. There may well be many votes to be garnered from it, even if it made a poor show in the armoury of the Conservatives. What is a great deal less success of government intervention in this field. The experience of such interventionism in recent years is not particularly happy, and it will be a brave (and just possibly unwise) minister who embarks on such a course again.

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
*Published by Allen and Unwin, £14.50.

the tin mug which shook the dice at the European finals. As I was saying "cheese" a passer-by tossed a coin into it. "That should help you starving England," he said touchingly as he walked off. It was only one coin, but perhaps he will be sending the food parcel on later.

I cannot report that I was mugged, except by my own volition, by banders, nor can I say that the city is dirty, or smelly, or more broken down than any other great metropolis; even Tiffany's was having a few maggots in it, but the inhabitants can still spare a dime. If only they would clean up their taxis.

Royal view

A new portrait of the Queen, commissioned by the Royal Artillery, went on view yesterday as "one of the most subjective portraits yet painted of Her Majesty" and the artist, David Pooley, said he had tried to catch the sense of isolation provided the Queen's pictures had. Pooley said that the keeper of the Queen's pictures had congratulated him on painting the Queen the right size. Many artists apparently feel obliged to endow royalty with an unnaturally lofty stature.

Making the workers happier

Prophets, sages and economists are not accustomed to being swiftly proven right, but Dr E. F. Schumacher, who is all three rolled into one, has just had just that rare experience. Even more remarkable, perhaps, his prognosis having proved so accurate, more and more people are beginning to look attentively at his suggested remedies.

It was in the spring of 1973 that Dr Schumacher, a former economic adviser to the National Coal Board and already known for his grass-roots approach to rural poverty in the developing world, published his book *Small is Beautiful*. The Western world was still basking in economic growth, full employment and cheap energy. The book set out Schumacher's long-held belief that large-scale, intensive technology was increasingly unacceptable on social, human and economic grounds. It should, he argued, give way to a more humane, less capital and energy intensive, less centralized application of modern knowledge.

Since then we have had a savage increase in oil and other commodity prices, recession, unemployment, and in Britain, a growing dissatisfaction with our highly centralized society and the gap between the haves and the have-nots has widened and the irrelevance of aid in the form of the same labour-saving, capital and energy-intensive Western technology has been underlined.

It was with the Third World chiefly in mind that in 1965, with a fellow economist from the National Coal Board, Mr George McRobie, and Julia Porter, then secretary of the Africa Development Trust, Dr Schumacher set up an Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) in London. The aim was to use today's knowledge to produce tools and plant geared to saving labour and time, and to making maximum use of local materials; and to foster an "appropriate" new technology lying between the sickle and the harvester, as they put it.

The relevance of this approach to the industrialized as well as the developing world was soon grasped in short by the West's impoverished regions. In 1968 a group of economists from Scotland, Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland and the Appalachian mountains met in Newfoundland, joined by the realization that far from being a hindrance to the growing wealth of the large metropolitan centres, these were being drained and corrupted by them.

Since then the "Schumacher approach" has become part of the new regional consciousness and especially of the movement in Scotland and Wales for more self-reliance and self-government. The IT group has now appointed a senior Shell engineer, Mr John Davis, to promote more humane, congenial and harmonious technology.

Roger Berthoud

Others said that at 1st the Queen looked her proper age, and one man observed that she looked very well. The principal worry was that the picture might not reproduce well: cropping the picture to show the features more clearly would destroy the scale; and distinguishing between the red and black sides of the cape and the Queen's arm look as if it was dressed in Elastoplast.

Better days

At first blush, Spitalfields and silks would seem to have little to do with one another. The area is better known for its boarded up Hawksmoor church and its meads drinkers. But in the flourishing century it was the English silk trade, dominated by the Huguenots. This was cely the annual lecture at their central library for the past 100 years. The talk was given by Natalie Rothstein from the V & A, looking reassuringly knowledgeable about the silk boom in Spitalfields, the merchants built their houses round Spital Square, Artillery Row, and what is now Four Lane Street. It was always a luxury trade—in 1736 silk cloth for

wool in the United Kingdom. One of his hopes is that the interlocking group in the region could help correct the present uneven distribution of industry.

A heart of the T group's work is the conviction that technology is not a no-brainer, a gift factor which must become more expensive. In their search for an intermediate technology suited to the developing countries, they adopted three main approaches: the spreading of traditional skills in the use of modern technology; and the design of special new products. Typical projects have been a deep water channel, a test, improved weaving loom, and a range of mortar for construction. Improvements in animal-powered equipment: small sugar mill with a capital cost per horsepower one-tenth that of conventional large mills; small scale brick-making and a small metal-bending machine costing one-hundredth of the conventional machine.

Among new products have been man-made implements designed to fill the gap between hand tools and mechanized production, and a transportable charcoal kiln which converts useless scrub into charcoal. By helping to make life in poor rural areas more viable, the group is helped to slow down the flow of the hungry into more advanced areas in the developed world, such as India, where the group has helped shape Dr Schumacher's thinking.

Dr Schumacher, who is 65, was born in Bonn, studied at Oxford, emigrated to Britain in 1937, and has since lived in various parts of the world. He is a tall man with grey hair, a very serious, intensely practical intellectual, who is as happy to design a hygienic pigsty with his farmer son, as to design a pigsty with his farmer son, as to design a pigsty with his farmer son, as to design a pigsty with his farmer son.

When we met the other day, he was just back from the United States where he was struck fresh by the contrast between the enormous concentrations of wealth and the appalling poverty, and the vastness of much of the country.

"A certain type of society has arisen in the last 100 years which produced this polarization," he said. "Instead of a law of equilibrium, we have in fact a series of logical steps have produced a totally which is a nonsense."

Large-scale technology does not just produce polarization. It is also a point missed by the communists, although the Chinese have decided not to sell themselves to it. It creates a dual society: workers who are jobless and a tiny layer of well-skilled and rich enough to manipulate it. In Britain this has helped to produce a national rejection of work, he believes.

Modern society has written off the correct way can only come from individuals, who must find satisfaction in their lives. One hopes they will be numerous enough to prove Dr Schumacher right again.

wear at the Prince of Wales wedding cost £500. An informal lecture by the lifelong inhabitants in the audience, a retired cabinet maker and a Marxist ex-toolmaker revealed more of the area's history. They pointed out the photograph of the Great Synagogue on the corner of Fourn Street. Originally built by a Huguenot chapel, it was taken over by the Londo Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews, then became a synagogue.

Now it is to be converted into a mosque. "You see," they explained, "this area has always been the first stop for refugees. Now the Jews have moved on to Hendon and it's now from Bangladesh. But there have come with various skills."

It used to be said that prices at Spitalfields were the sign of a misspent youth. A little nostalgically the Home Office report of protection against "One price force" expressed regret at the decline in the number of Spitalfields, which were always popular with young people who were interested in the more brim kind of club activity.

The Times Diary

A small bite at the Big Apple

a story headlined "Dems Agree On City Tax Hike", which is a telegraphic way of saying that the Democratic Party have rules New York State has thought of a new way to put the rates up, raising another 135 million dollars from higher local income tax and extending sales tax to haircuts and bowling alleys.

On another page a story told of tenants owing 12 million dollars in rent arrears: it will take an awful lot of haircuts to make that up.

At the hotel I was handed Mayor Abraham D. Beame's standard brochure of welcome, which refers to the city by its nickname of Big Apple. Beame thinks a lot of his town: "Glamorous, dynamic, legendary, unpredictable New York; world," was how he described it.

"Take us," we said to the nearest taxi driver, "to a vanished New York bar." The taxi driver was Iranian, spoke

very fractured English, and owned the dirtiest cab in the world, which turned out to be a typical, ordinary New York cab. Every square inch of the bodywork had a dent, and the inside was ankle deep in all kinds of rubbish and muck. Every cab we travelled in was exactly the same.

The bar he took us to was an evil den, full of topos of women dancing on the counter, dangerous looking swarthy men, and a curious notice which read: "Minimum order two drinks." It was not the sort of place where one would want to go. Nor were the next five bars we visited in various parts of Manhattan, all of which had the common factors of topos women and extortionate prices.

In the street outside, I saw the last thing I had expected to see in the bankrupt city: at least a dozen giant dustcarts emptying the city's dustbins at 2.30 in the morning. But a second look confirmed the suspected truth: they were all

private contractors from such firms as General Garbage Corporation, and not a local authority dustman in sight. There was even a little electric truck like an Express Dairy milkfloat, sweeping the gutters, and bearing the legend: "Sanitation by courtesy of Bowery Savings Bank in the interests of a cleaner New York."

New York does not appear to be short of policemen, although it says it is. Police sirens wail by every few minutes, and there are plenty of uniformed officers on the streets, perhaps a little less impressively turned out than Sir Robert Mark would approve of, but all amiable and talkative. One at the airport even gave away part of his uniform. The metal P.A. (Port Authority) badge on his collar, to the girl reporter from A (Press Association) of London. She expected to dine out for weeks on the experience, but he is probably in a heap of trouble for the city's brass collar badges.

The greatest obvious waste in New York is steam, a phenomenon which nobody can satisfactorily explain. Every few yards great geyers of hot steam erupt from their fissures, spouting obscuring all visibility. New York may be bust, but its citizens remain generous, as proved by a small incident on Fifth Avenue. I posed for a picture with fellow Monopolists, and I was delegated to hold

David Battie of Sotheby's photographed this mosaic in Junction in Central India.

landscape. But where does it come from? From the subway, some said, though I thought that was electricity, but the steam was not accompanied by any noxious smells. We have not the faintest idea, said a few. The most likely explanation is that a company in New York generates steam for office heating, and delivers it in pipes under the streets which, being old, tend to crack. There seems to be as much steam leaking into the air as there is going into the office blocks, and it is very disconcerting when your taxi drives straight into a ten-foot spout, obscuring all visibility.

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Handwritten text in Urdu script.

Pressure for decontrol of US oil prices intensifies

From Our US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Nov 26

Leading United States oil companies are mounting a campaign to ensure that President Ford sticks to his promises and brings about the swift decontrol of domestic oil prices.

Congress will shortly present the President with legislation calling for an immediate reduction in domestic retail oil product prices and for a 40-month extension of controls that permits a gradual increase in prices during this period.

President Ford has time and again indicated that he will veto such a measure. However, even his own energy advisers are now suggesting that he should sign the Bill, primarily because they fear that a veto would lead Congress to produce legislation involving still stiffer controls.

Some of the President's political advisers are urging Mr Ford to sign the Bill because they fear his election chances will be damaged by the new inflationary pressures that decontrol would produce.

But the oil companies are now on the attack, lobbying strongly at the White House and with Congress, and calling for an immediate end to controls on December 15 the day the current control authority expires.

Mr Rawleigh Warner, chairman of Mobil Oil, told security analysts in New York that Mr Ford's acceptance of the new energy Bill was "a formula for increased oil imports and diminished energy security".

He added that recent opinion polls showed the general public was coming to understand the real problems that faced the country. According to a recent survey, he said 54 per cent favoured complete deregulation of natural gas produced in the United States and 55 per cent favoured decontrol of oil prices.

Mr Roy Base, senior vice president of Exxon, was more specific in an attack on the new energy Bill in a speech in Atlanta. He argued that Congress was wrong to assume its Bill would lead to a reduction of 3¢ cents on a gallon of petrol.

The country's high dependency on imports, which would be hit by the energy Bill, would lead to an initial price cut of at most 2¢ cents, he said. Then, because these cuts will not stimulate conservation, it was probable that imports would increase, so raising average prices and this "would increase the power of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

Easing of HP controls more likely in spring Budget than this year

By Tim Congdon
Relaxation of hire purchase controls is being considered by the Government as part of a programme of helping consumer industries which have been badly hit by the recession. An announcement is possible in the next few weeks, although it may be deferred until the Budget next year.

If a relaxation is to be carried out in the near future it will probably coincide with the introduction of selective import controls, which are thought most likely for cars, television tubes and textiles. A statement is expected in the next few days.

An easing of hire purchase

terms has the advantage that it would not add to the public sector borrowing requirement. However, by stimulating the demand for credit, it would raise the money supply unless the authorities were to take offsetting action by holding down the banks' reserve asset ratios.

The last big change in hire purchase terms was in December 1973 when Mr Barber, the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, reintroduced restrictions with a minimum down payment of 33 per cent and a maximum repayment period of 24 months were established.

It is quite common for the Government to alter hire pur-

chase regulations at times other than the spring Budget and it would be no great departure from precedent if it eased controls in the next few weeks. But Mr Healey, the Chancellor, has ruled out general reflationary moves for the time being. Moreover, easier hire purchase terms would stimulate consumption and this is not compatible with the Government's strategy of export-led recovery. Most forecasters are therefore not expecting a relaxation of controls before next year.

The Treasury yesterday refused to comment on reports that an announcement on consumer credit was imminent.

Mr Heseltine points to 'loophole' on disclosures

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Flaws in the Industry Act which will enable industrialists to avoid being compelled to disclose information under planning agreements were discussed yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Opposition front bench spokesman on industry, in a speech to the Institute of Production Engineers in London.

He said he had consulted Sir Michael Havers, who was Solicitor General in the Conservative Government, about the implications of the parts of the Act dealing with compulsory disclosure as amended, against the will of the Government, at report stage.

On a reciprocal basis, the Government must now provide information to enable forecasts to be made of the level of gross domestic product, employment, the balance of payments in current account, the general index of retail prices and average earnings.

These forecasts would also have to contain, where possible, the margin of error attaching to them.

If the Government refused to see the logic of this reciprocal agreement and sought to serve a notice under Section 30 compelling disclosure in advance of the production of the government figures, companies could refer to Section 34 which defined offences.

The only penalties provided were for those companies which refused or failed—and these were the critical words—"without reasonable cause" to furnish information requested under this part of the Act.

"What more reasonable cause could a company have for failing to comply with the compulsory disclosure powers than that the Government had failed to provide it with the macro-economic forecasts as provided by statute?" said Mr Heseltine.

"And once the Government's information is provided, industry would be well within its rights to base its forward planning assumptions on what the Government had provided."

Failure by the Government to live up to its forecasts immediately invalidates the company's forecast. I can only say that no government in my political experience has ever got its forecast right.

Disturbing omissions from the Giro proposals

From Mr A. E. Reynolds
Sir, As one of those who queued up in 1968 to open a National Giro account, I am disturbed by two notable omissions from the White Paper: firstly any commitment to conserve the development of National Giro as a postal giro service and secondly any endorsement of Mr Benn's undertaking in March, 1975, that the Government would consider using Giro for making more of its own payments.

Through its single accounting centre and simple overnight transfers between accounts, Giro has provided a service not offered by any of the clearing banks. Yet the White Paper does not propose any campaign to sell those advantages to a wider audience. Indeed, by speaking of a card to guaran-

tee only payments to people who bank elsewhere, it may positively discourage payments to those who are also account-holders at Giro.

It is disappointing, too, that Mr Benn's successor has seemingly failed to convince his colleagues that their departments could make more use of Giro, yet the Inland Revenue still refuses to pay tax refunds that way and the Department for National Savings will neither make SAYE repayments nor pay savings bank withdrawals by transfers from their Giro accounts. What hope is there of persuading others to pay by Giro when the Government fails to set an example?

Yours faithfully,
A. E. REYNOLDS,
40 Leyburn Gardens,
Croydon, CRO 5NL,
November 25.

Tax burden of small businesses

From Mr C. J. Davis
Sir, I was very glad to see the letter from Mr David Mitchell MP (November 21) emphasising the importance of reducing profits to smaller businesses and all-unquoted companies. It is encouraging to see a committee of the Conservative Party giving its attention to the problems created by the taxing of such profits.

The Labour Party's record towards independent businesses has been more helpful, in the matter of corporation tax, it has been in other matters. The "class" system introduced by Mr Callaghan in 1965 to encourage retention was a change for the better, at least after the "class" company provisions had been ameliorated. However, the present system introduced by Mr Barber (as he then was), though it allows a reduced rate for companies making small profits, has still increased the tax burden of the unquoted company sector.

Further, reliefs have been brought in by Labour governments: the "Directors' Ration" was ended under Mr Jenkins and stock relief has been allowed temporarily anyway, under Mr Healey. There has been no comparable change under a Conservative government.

I hope that Mr Mitchell will be able to persuade his colleagues to make amendments giving serious consideration to Mr B. A. Cole's proposal that corporation tax is abolished. Taxes on efficiency are uneconomic.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. DAVIS, Chairman,
Legislation Committee,
The Association of Independent Businesses,
Europe House,
World Trade Centre,
London E1.
November 24.

Users' concern over railway cuts and investment prospects

From Mr L. A. Dumbleton

Sir, May I point out that as well as the railway unions the Central Transport Consultative Committee and the area transport users consultative committees, the statutory bodies representing rail users, are very concerned at the effect the various cuts by British Rail will have on the travelling public.

The TUCs are being consulted by British Rail locally about the cuts to be made in their areas.

Moreover, my committee met the Minister for Transport on September 24 and drew his attention to their grave concern about the consequential effect on the quality of rail service should there be any reduction in passenger support grant and capital investment to British Rail.

It was pointed out that apart from the proposed cuts in train services three fare increases which went considerably beyond the rate of inflation had been imposed in 1975 and more were expected in the next year or so which would inevitably lead to falling demand and reduced revenue. Any further measures by British Rail such as withdrawals of rail services would have considerable social consequences.

The committee emphasised that what the railways needed was a stable long term investment programme with the requirements of rail users in the next decade being identified and the necessary capital provided to meet those needs. The more the railways deteriorated through lack of investment the more expensive would be the eventual rehabilitation and the central committee strongly urged that an increasing level of grant and capital investment be provided for British Rail.

transport policy, the committee represented that the transport industry as a whole required a planned approach to its development. There should be a comprehensive Government strategy for planning transport services in relation to the re-

sources available for all forms of transport.

The minister explained that the financial help British Rail would receive from the taxpayer would amount to nearly £500m in 1975. It was true that fare increases had exceeded the rate of inflation but this was as a result of having to catch up on past price restraint. Rises in fares could lead to reduced use of the railways, but the alternative was higher subsidies, and it was necessary to question whether subsidising passenger travel represented the best social use of scarce resources.

He accepted that it was desirable for British Rail to have a firmly established long term investment programme and he would bear in mind the committee's views. The minister also indicated that the Government was looking at transport as a whole in an integrated way and he hoped that a comprehensive statement on transport policy would be made by the end of 1975 or early in 1976.

It goes without saying that my committee and the TUCs will continue to work energetically on behalf of all those who travel by train.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. DUMBLETON,
Secretary,
Central Transport Consultative Committee,
34 Great Marlborough Street,
London W1V 2BA,
November 24.

Adding up the shopping bill

From Mr B. Singleton
Sir, In Mr W. Hughes-Lewis's position (November 24), I should have insisted on paying 5 pence for one, and 15 pence for two, and 15 pence for three.

Yours faithfully,
B. SINGLETON,
12 West Common Gardens,
Scunthorpe,
Lincolnshire,
November 24.

Surfeit of tankers 'for five years'

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

The surplus of tanker tonnage will continue for at least the next five years, rising to a peak of 78 million tons deadweight by 1977, a report predicted yesterday.

At the beginning of this year it amounted to an estimated 31 million tons dwt, and by 1977 was expected to have risen to about 78 million tons, when around 23 per cent of the total volume available to the oil trades would have been absorbed through slow steaming or would be totally inactive.

The report, on prospects for the tanker industry over the next five years, says the surplus will fall to 24 million tons (about 10 per cent of available tanker supply) by about the beginning of 1980 and is expected to disappear around 1981.

Next month tanker owners, together with bankers, shipbuilders and oil companies will meet in London to discuss the measures which can be taken to reduce the surplus and bring the market back into balance.

The failure of the tanker industry to take sufficient corrective action to reduce the supply could ensure that the surplus would exist well into the middle of the next decade.

Apart from the worldwide slump for oil, the most significant factor which had contributed to the pessimistic outlook for the industry had been the size of the new building order book. Before the start of the rush of cancellations—nearly 39 million tons between September last year and July this year—the order book amounted to 214 million tons dwt.

"World Tanker Outlook 1975-80, Interact Ltd, price \$150.

America heading for surplus of \$10,000m

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 26

America is now likely to have a record total 1975 balance of trade surplus of well over \$10,000m (about £4,916m) compared with a deficit in 1974 of \$3,426m.

Government officials had expected some moderation in the size of the trade surplus in recent months and were surprised today that latest figures showed a huge \$1,075.9m surplus last month after a surplus of \$976.4m in September.

The October surplus was the second highest of the year. It continued a trend of nine consecutive monthly trade surpluses and took the total seasonally adjusted surplus for the year so far to \$9,497.2m.

Both imports and exports were at their second highest monthly levels ever, the Department of Commerce reported.

A few months ago government economists predicted a total 1975 surplus of close to \$10,000m and, along with many private economists, they forecast a more balanced overall trade position in the final third of this year, due largely to the expectation that imports would rise as economic recovery gathered momentum.

Imports, however, according to the new figures, have not been rising at anything like the pace of exports, despite recent sharp gains in consumer spending and in real gross national product.

Exports last month totalled \$9,288.1m after \$9,165m in September to take them to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,063,888m, or 5 per cent up on the 1974 total.

month, to take them to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5 per cent below the 1974 level at \$94,992m.

Government economists note that, contrary to expectations, the demand for American goods abroad has not declined, despite the continuing weakness of America's major trading partners and the growing balance of payments difficulties of many developing nations.

But the experts do point out that exports have been largely aided in the last couple of months by the record United States harvest, which has resulted in record agricultural exports.

Meanwhile, the experts note that oil imports have not been rising as fast as had been widely feared. The upturn in the economy was expected to see a swift rise in oil imports and the price of these imports was also expected to increase.

The latest Opec oil price rises by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries do not appear so far to have had an impact, but they could lead in the near future to a significant rise in the total cost of United States imports.

Department of Commerce figures show that total energy product import costs in October, at \$2,219.5m, were lower than in September, April, January and February, fractionally higher than in July and August and considerably above the totals for other months of this year.

The volume of energy imports in October, at 194.9 million barrels, was higher than in most months of this year, although 10 million barrels below September's level. 5 million barrels less than in April and fully 88.5 million barrels less than February's total.

Christy Bros' £755,000 loss

Christy Bros, the electrical engineering and contracting firm, made a pre-tax loss of £755,000 for the year to the end of March, compared with a profit of £27,115 the previous year.

At a specially halved turnover, passed: the previous year a gross dividend of 16.5p was declared. Simultaneously, the company announced it made a pre-tax profit of £40,000, as against £27,000, for the six months to the end of September.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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27th November, 1975

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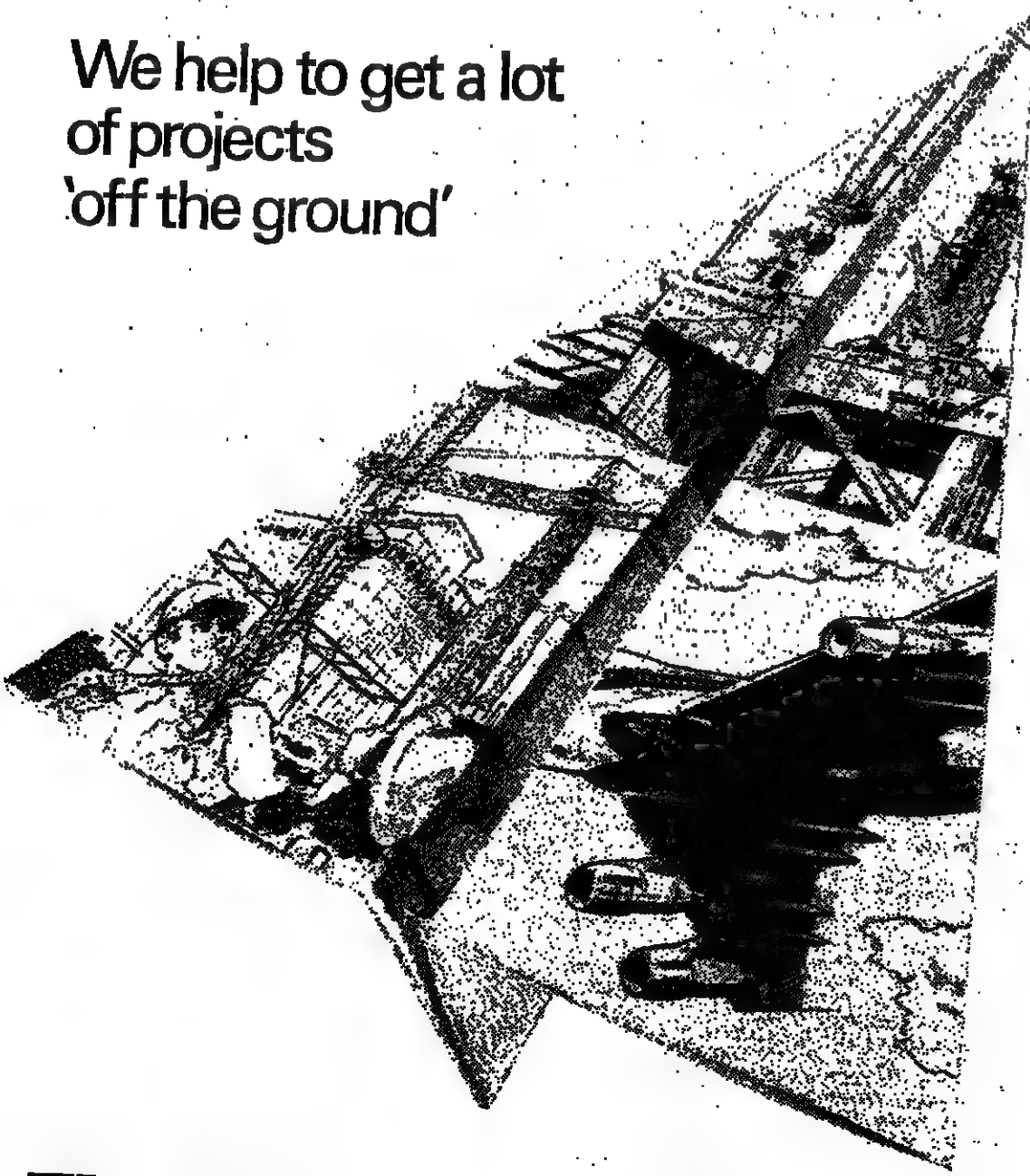
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The Government leaves it to the experts

There are times when one can only wonder at the Government's policy of leaving the financial and economic aspects of the country to the experts. The Government's policy of leaving the financial and economic aspects of the country to the experts is a policy of inaction. It is a policy of leaving the financial and economic aspects of the country to the experts. It is a policy of leaving the financial and economic aspects of the country to the experts.

Johnson Matthey

Judging the cycle

As was to be expected, Johnson Matthey is still feeling the effects of the world-wide recession. That situation is likely to continue for the remainder of the financial year, if not through to the first half of 1976-77.

Avon Rubber

Avon has been among the worst casualties of the downturn in the United Kingdom. It has suffered a heavy loss of 502,850 against the 1974-75 profit of 1,144,400. The loss was due to a combination of factors, including a decline in sales and an increase in costs.

Tesco

Comparisons with Sainsbury

The stock market may have been disappointed with Tesco's interim results yesterday, but nevertheless there is a marked contrast with the recent dismal figures from Sainsbury.

Current cost accounting proposals inappropriate for financial institutions

The debate on the Sandilands Report, as conducted in the pages of *The Times*, has centred on a single issue: Whether or not it is right to set aside all "holding gains", regardless of whether they are debt or equity-financed, before arriving at a figure of profit. Yes it is, say the Sandilands Committee and such sympathisers as Messrs Merritt and Sykes.

Ian Morison

In the extreme case, inflation might be so severe that £100 (or £100m, or whatever figure one postulates) become smaller than the smallest unit of currency used as a medium of exchange. Some time before then, the bank would have found that it could no longer hold a sufficient number of deposits and advances on its books to ensure the necessary spread of business.

Let us now suppose, however, that the bank decided to give up banking and turned instead to "widget-trading". All sums necessary to hold an unchanged volume of widgets could now be deducted before arriving at CCA profit. Suppose the company started its new life with £90 of borrowings, £10 of capital and reserves (as before) and 100 widgets worth £1 each.

An accounting system which could permit two such extreme results surely needs reconsideration. To return to the example of the bank, it is necessary to ask first how CCA might be adapted to provide a more realistic statement of the distributable profits of a financial institution.

Theirs is just to reason why...

Mr Wayne Godley, the Director of the Cambridge University Department of Applied Economics, has opened up an important argument about the Treasury's control of public expenditure in his evidence on November 6 to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee.

Peter Jay

Economics Editor

It is, moreover, unsatisfactory to be told that changes in government policies account for bigger changes in public spending plans than the figures given in successive annual White Papers for the cost of policy changes. Indirect effects could reasonably be included in forward estimates and brought up to date for past periods where accurate forecasts are not possible. But the most unsatisfactory feature are the unplanned relative price increases, which in less technical language means that there has been no effective financial control over rates of pay and levels of prices in the public sector.

The new system of cash limits is a recognition by the Chancellor and the Treasury that control has been too weak to date. But we need to know in addition that where other unplanned increases in Government spending occur—as they must in some areas, such as unemployment benefits—the Treasury can and, if necessary, will enforce compensating savings elsewhere in spending programmes. It would further assist understanding and control, as I have often argued before, if expenditure adjustments which are related to combating the trade cycle in the short term were separately accounted for outside the basic series of public expenditure figures.

THE MISSING BILLIONS

1974-5 total public expenditure as planned in December, 1971	£2,143
1974-5 total public expenditure out-turn as estimated in January, 1975	4,378
Of which:	
Fall in general value of money	10,458
Changes in definition of total public expenditure	800
Less:	
Contingency reserve provision in December, 1971	-800
Excess of estimated actual shortfall over planned shortfall	-800
True increase in out-turn over planned total	6,875
Of which:	
Extra debt interest	800
Unplanned relative price increases	1,700
Rounding errors	-60

Big or Small you're beautiful to Baric

Using a computing service bureau to help management control makes good sense for some surprisingly small companies—and some surprisingly large ones. And using Baric—the biggest British bureau—makes even better sense: years of experience in all data processing applications has given Baric a vast store of know-how, and the ability to use the most up-to-date technology.



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Business Diary: The grand liquidator • Tenth wise man

Coming earlier this year from Spain where he had got rid of his Leyland's subsidiary, Percy Plant was immediately dubbed by the Italian press "The grand liquidator". Now that he has done a butcher's job on the company, which has been chaired and chief executive for only a few months, he will have to expect epithets like "the murderer of Milan".

He soon disagreed with Signor Pier Giovanni Belfi, the managing director, who resigned in the summer. The trade unions and the left-wing opposition, including the Communist Party, maintained all along that Plant had been sent to Italy with a brief to liquidate the loss-making Innocenti subsidiary.



Percy Plant: Leyland's man in Milan hot seat

Innocenti has already had a bomb in its Rome showrooms, while its head of personnel, Signor Valerio di Marco, was shot in the legs and ended up in hospital after an incident with a left-wing extremist. Plant has been flitting from hotel to hotel in Rome in recent weeks, without disclosing where he was staying.

attack on Signor di Marco and sending executives to visit him in hospital.

Third world link

A new (or to be more precise, an old) name steps into the play in the "dialogue" between developed and developing countries today. He is Sidney Golt, currently chairman of the Linked Life Assurance group, but for most of his working life he has been a leading role in setting up organizations like United Nations' Conference on Trade and Development which try to bring both rich and poor nations together.

It more difficult to explain that the United Kingdom is still deeply unhappy about indexing commodity prices to inflation, especially since the Treasury is now fervently hoping that commodity prices will fall to help our domestic problems.

Which is where Sir Donald (now ambassador to Brussels) goes out, and Golt comes in. Although retired from the Civil Service he is now of it, but not in it, which means that when the experts produce their new report in time for the next meeting of UNCTAD, scheduled for Nairobi in April, there will be no doubt that it is a personal contribution by him rather than a government line.

He thinks that the best hope for developing countries lies not in seeking any special preferences for their products, but in pursuing general free access all round, a view which may owe something to the Board of Trade's renowned scepticism about any interference with free trade.

He is also sceptical about the practicality of commodity agreements, and particularly of indexing, but he does believe that there has been a turn for the better in relations between developing countries and the rest of the world, which he sees symbolized by the atmosphere at the September meeting of the United Nations.

the assistance of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The job will involve firms in the West Midlands (Chetwynd lives in Shropshire), particularly the smaller ones that are either exporting or wish to export. The idea is that they will be able to meet regularly through the club to discuss common problems of exporting.

Chetwynd says he hopes the new job will be of "some value to my country". However, while handing over the chairmanship of the Rupert Chetwynd group to Julian Broad, who is already chairman of the main operating company, he is, according to Broad, "not abandoning the place". He will remain a director and continue to attend the office for three days a week.

Although the group through its connections with Streets Advertising, which it acquired in 1971, has regional subsidiaries in Leicester, Manchester and Glasgow, Chetwynd's new job is apparently in no way an attempt to bring new business into the operation. "Rupert simply likes new challenges", says Broad.

Backing Britain

Rupert Chetwynd, 41-year-old head of his own advertising agency group, is about to move into a new line of business. He is planning to found and chair an export club with

Profits collapse at FMC after losses hit Marsh Harris

By Ronald Pullen
Despite a £26m jump in sales to £159.9m at the half-way stage, pre-tax profits at FMC collapsed from £15.2m last year to a mere £172,000.

Europe's largest meat wholesaler, as earlier this year at the centre of a storm over compensation terms to Mr J. Anson Payne, then chairman, as part of the NFU Development Trust's controversial proposals—since successful—to use its 41 per cent stake in FMC to greater effect.

The main damage has been done by losses at the Marsh

Harris meat processing group where higher pig prices, increased costs and price controls hit deeply into margins.

Trading in fresh meat has declined in profitability from last year's exceptional levels, although the poultry side is back in profit and results for the by-products division have improved.

The interim figures do not include the results from the New Zealand subsidiary—acquired in the second half of last year—and these have been excluded from the comparable figures of

last year, but the company adds that it is trading satisfactorily. There is unlikely to be any marked improvement in the second half and full year results will show a substantial reduction on last year's record profits.

Referring to the practice of earlier years, dividend payments have been delayed to the year end, but FMC says that earnings should be sufficient to cover the cost of the same dividends as were paid last year. The shares closed 7p down at 52p yesterday.

Stock markets

Disappointing interim report weakens Tesco

Trading was thin on the stock market yesterday, with share prices finally succumbing to some profit-taking ahead of the end of the trading account.

Most investors keenly awaited today's profits news from ICI, to be followed in a week by the latest trading report from BP, also a testing point for the market's recent advance.

"Long" captured most attention in the gilt-edged market. Although the Government broker sold a number of stocks as unofficial "caps" the absence of an official cap after the exhaustion of Treasury 122 per cent 1992 on Tuesday, encouraged the market.

A feeling developed that the authorities may be willing to let the market rise a little to create a favourable climate for the replacement of a replacement long-term "cap" in one or two weeks' time.

The best gains were recorded in the high-common stocks. "Medium" fell reasonably well, moving on 1 or 2 points, but untraded stocks were less favoured, with rises limited to 1-1½ points.

"Shorts" were slightly weaker on the day. But falls were generally restricted to 1/16 point. Dealers said that business was quiet, but that there were no special features.

Shares in *Fairfax*, nuclear and hydraulic engineer, were active ahead of today's interim report. Market hints of a rights issue restrained the buyers, however.

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Rights issue and rally by Mowlem

A rights issue and forecast of record profits left the shares of John Mowlem unchanged yesterday at 84p. The board is to issue 1.75 million shares at 83p in the ratio of one-for-four. This should raise about £1.13m to strengthen the group's capital base—which has been outpaced by the growth of turnover, mainly as a result of inflation.

Last year pre-tax profits of this building, civil engineering, property investment and development group fell from a peak of £2.08m to £1.81m, and the board hopes to make more than make up this loss by producing a profit of "not less than" £2.2m. The current order book indicates a good level of work for 1976.

Scotia is suspended for not disclosing deals

By David Mott
The Stock Exchange has suspended the quotation of Scotia Investments for "a failure to comply with listing requirements."

More specifically, it is understood the alleged breach concerns a failure to notify to the SE authorities of certain transactions between Scotia and Alco Metropolitan Properties, which has 60 per cent of the company and is bidding 17p a share for the rest. Alco is controlled by four Scotia directors.

Mr P. Frolich, Scotia's joint managing-director, said the company were given no advance warning of the suspension. "I have no idea why they have taken this action—presumably it is a technical breach," he added. He said that in any case Scotia would have been asking for a suspension in a fortnight or so as they are in the bid situation.

The board would be consulting their professional advisers and would probably get in touch with the Stock Exchange in due course. The deals at the heart of the Stock Exchange move came to light in the offer document.

Sanger returns to form

The second-half recovery at J. E. Sanger, the meat trader, has continued into the current year and produced a pre-tax profit of £515,000 for the six months to September 30. This compares with £165,000 for the first half of 1974—which reflected the total ban on beef and veal imports into the EEC.

Turnover rose from £14.1m to £19.6m.

The interim dividend is raised from 1.11p to 2.69p gross and an overall increase is promised for the full year.

The overseas subsidiaries account for about 67 per cent of group turnover and are performing well. Trading from London continues to improve, while the Dublin office, in particular, has experienced a substantial increase in turnover.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord	Year	Pay	Prev
Amper (and par values)	div	2.5	18.3	5.5
Amper Pet (Aes 50c) Fin	2.5	18.3	5.5	5.0
Amper Rubber (11) Fin	5.7	26.1	0.67	8.56
Bossey & Hawkes (25p) Int	1.15	12.1	—	3.79
Bossey & Hawkes (10p) Int	0.63	8.8	—	1.64
Brambles (25p) Int	1.13	12.1	—	1.98
Sir John Causton (25p) Fin	1.0	—	—	1.67
Comben (10p) Int	0.45	—	—	1.35
Alfred Dunhill (10p) Int	2.2	—	—	10.22
John Causton (11) Int	5.0	2.2	—	1.62
Lee Cooper (25p) Int	1.62	—	—	1.88
London Road Inv (25p) Int	0.83	23.12	—	1.88
M & G Secord (10p) Int	1.3	16.1	—	3.50
John Mowlem (25p) Fin	4.03	—	—	4.03
Quash B'fields (11) Fin	1.47	19.12	1.57	1.47
Roseburgh (25p) Fin	0.91	2.1	0.51	3.75
E. Sanger (10p) Int	0.75	23.1	—	—
Scott & Universal Int	2.01	1.88	26.3	—
J. W. Spear (25p) Int	0.52	0.48	—	1.38
Yesco (5p) Int	0.57	0.53	7.3	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on price per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Forecast.

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BRADY

INDUSTRIES LIMITED

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS TO 30th SEPTEMBER, 1975 TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY AND ORDINARY "A" SHARES

	1975/76	1974/75
Turnover	£700m	£600m
	7,612	7,124
Less: interest, depreciation, amortisation, audit fees, Directors' remuneration and interest charges	200	365
Net profit (unaudited)	148	175

Your Directors in announcing trading results for the half year ended 30th September, 1975, stress that the trend anticipated with less favourable trading conditions during the period has resulted in reduced profit margins and consequently a reduced net profit. We are able to report an increase in turnover and that orders are being maintained at a satisfactory level and this in itself leaves us with some optimism.

An Interim payment of 1.75 pence per share on the Ordinary and "A" Ordinary Shares is proposed and will be paid on 21st January, 1976, to shareholders on the Company's register at 19th December, 1975.

A. E. Ross Seymour,
Chairman.

Alfred Dunhill 12pc ahead at halfway

Miss Mary Dunhill, who vacates the chair of Alfred Dunhill at the end of the year, announced her retirement on a happy note. Pre-tax profits in the first six months to September 30 rose 12 per cent to £3.38m, and this means the group is running strongly to produce a record £6.22m.

Second half profits last year were £3.25m. Thus encouraged, the interim dividend is raised from 2.99p to 3.38p. Sales advanced from £9.25m to £11.58m.

Dunhill, in which Rothmans International has a controlling stake, is now firmly committed to the tobacco users' market. Early next year it will open a new factory at Skelmersdale, Lancashire, which, it is said, will greatly increase the capacity and efficiency of its expanding tobacco business.

Attributable profit is up from £1.37m to £1.51m.

from £18,000 to £118,000 over the year. Turnover rose from £1.4m to £1.24m.

Extraordinary items of £118,000 (£18,000) include a loss on a subsidiary now sold of £44,000. At the attributable level the loss was £112,000 (£26,000).

Sales showed a 15 per cent improvement to £3.52m. The interim is bumped up from 1.49p to 1.69p and the board intends to pay the maximum final allowed.

Sir J Causton dives into the red by £1.6m for year

Printing and stationery group Sir Joseph Causton cannot see a return to profits until 1976-77, even though the rate of loss fell in the second half of the year ended September 30 and an improvement is expected in the current period. There is no dividend, against 2.49p.

Before tax but after a soaring interest charge of £327,000 the year's loss of £587,000 compared with a profit of £223,000. Of the deficit, £251,000 came in the second leg.

The final outcome was a loss of £1.64m. Extraordinary items debited after the pre-tax reached £1.39m (against £55,000). They consist of losses of £601,000 in connection with the French company, the cost of conversion of a foreign currency loan to sterling of £530,000, redundancy and gratuity payments of £170,000 and compensation for loss of office as directors of £34,000.

A revaluation of freehold factories has thrown up a surplus of £250,000.

UDT held back by dear money

The UDT, which has been delayed by higher money costs and the exceptionally low level of the economy, says the group.

Based on management accounts for the first four months of the year to date, the UDT says the dividend on the 4.5 per cent preference stock, due on December 31, will not be paid on that date. The preference stocks total £2.5m in the capital and the December dividend is £39,000 net.

This dividend and the previous one, also deferred, must be paid before any distribution on the ordinary shares is made. In the absence of profits or distributable reserves the company is not legally able to pay a dividend.

Venezuelan loans on Euromarkets

The Venezuelan Government Housing Agency is raising \$25m in the Euromarket through a six-month credit at one per cent month offered rate.

In addition, an industrial company, Venezolana de Ferrocarriles Boreal is raising \$13m through a five-year credit at 11 per cent over Libor, arranged by Credit Lyonnais, to help finance a ferro alloy plant.

The loans could herald a period of heavy external fund raising by Venezuela, OPEC's third largest oil producer, to help finance internal development.—Reuter.

Odex Racasan

Odex Racasan, in hygiene products, maintains interim growth with a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £75,000 in the first six months to September 30. The board says the sales improvement noted at the annual meeting has so far been maintained, and it hopes that full profits will better last year's £73,000.

Fosco Minsep

Fosco Minsep, maker of products for the metallurgical, construction and water treatment industries, reports an advance in both sales and profits for the first nine months to September 30. At the halfway stage the group saw pre-tax profits edge up from £6.12m to £6.75m, with sales higher at £64.1m against £53.3m. The group says the difficult trading conditions of the first half continued into the third quarter.

WHEWAY WATSON

Sales and pre-tax profits substantially higher at half-year

The results show a substantial advance in sales and pre-tax profits for the first six months of the current financial year compared with the comparable period for the previous year.

There is, however, some 'de-stocking' taking place by users at the present time covering some of our product lines and it is unlikely that profits for the second six months period to 2nd April, 1976 will fully match those for the first six months.

W. Gibson Biggart, Chairman

	27 weeks ended 4.10.1975	28 weeks ended 29.9.1974	Year ended 30.3.1975
Turnover	£4,989,318	£3,911,275	£7,889,307
Profit before tax	£431,440	£322,226	£853,018
Profit after tax	£207,440	£154,226	£394,632
Net Dividend	275p	25p	53149p
Earnings per share	1.57p	1.17p	2.99p

The Interim Dividend of Wheway Watson Holdings Limited will be paid on 8th January, 1976 to shareholders on the share register at the close of business on 5th December, 1975.

MANUFACTURERS OF CHAIN AND MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT

Thomas Marshall

Investments Limited

INTERIM REPORT 1975/76

26 Weeks to 27th September, 1975.

- Turnover £10.8 Million
- Pre Tax Profits Up From £639,000 to £701,000
- Net Profit Up From £320,000 to £353,000
- Interim Dividend Increased By 10% to 1.265p. per share

Denmark credit

A syndicated Eurocurrency credit of £100m to the Kingdom of Denmark has been increased from \$200m to \$300m. The seven-year loan bears interest at an average spread of 1.5 points above inter-bank rates.

The loan is being jointly managed by Citicorp International Bank, Morgan Guaranty Trust Co and Chase Manhattan.—AP-DJ.

Malakoff reshaping

Under proposals, fore-shadowed last month, for the restructuring of Malakoff

AMPOL PETROLEUM

On turnover for year to Sept 30 rose by 16.9 per cent to \$3,249m. Profit after tax up from \$84m to \$10.59m. Dividend raised from 5 cents to 5.5 cents (Australian). Board expects maintained profits in current year.

LEE COOPER

On turnover up from £7.5m to £9.21m for half-year to Sept 30 pre-tax profits rose from £296,000 to £311,000. Year's pre-tax profits should certainly not be below £1m, reports board. Interim payment, 2.5p gross (single payment of 2.5p gross last time).

SCOTTISH CITIES INV

Chairman reports that value of investment portfolio has considerably improved, and board have

SEKERS INTERNATIONAL

Turnover for six months to end September, £2.94m (£1.58m). Trading profit, £77,200 (£110,700). In addition, extraordinary credit of £250,000 before tax (benefit under insurance policy).

MUAR RIVER RUBBER CO. LTD.

Sir John D. Barlow Bart's Review

The fifty fifth annual general meeting of the Company was held on 26th November 1975 in London.

SIR JOHN D. BARLOW BART, the chairman said—The trading profit for the year ended 31st March, 1975 of £388,187 was 40% less than the previous year's record profit. The surplus on land sales and on sales of investments was £636,984. The dividend of 1.41p per share to be paid to members is the maximum allowed under Dividend Limitation and will cost £122,289.

OUTLOOK

The Malaysian Government's measures in December 1974 to restrict output prevented the rubber price falling away during 1975. The current price of over 32p per kilo c.i.f. reflects insufficient industrial demand. We cannot expect a sustained rise in the price of rubber until there is increased industrial activity throughout the world.

The report and accounts were adopted.

Hughes Tool

Now listed in London

There have been a considerable number of overseas companies which have come to London for share listings over the past two years, but during the current year the flow has dried to little more than a trickle.

Not that that is especially surprising. British investors wishing to buy shares in overseas incorporated companies—whether they buy those shares through the London or an overseas stock market—can only buy them with officially designated investment currency, and what is more, have to surrender 25 per cent of the value of the premium when they liquidate their foreign investment and turn the proceeds back into sterling.

Given the great interest in overseas investment over the past year in view of the uncertainty over the future of the British economy and the future of sterling, there has been inevitably a striking demand for investment currency, and it has commanded a high premium over the normal commercial cost of purchasing investment currency. Indeed, the effective premium has been so high recently—at not far short of 70 per cent—that there is now a very strong deterrent to British investors making fresh por-

CALEDONIAN TRUST

Investment and Second Great North

Investment United States dollar-denominated investment fund has been established. The fund will invest in a five-year period from November 26 of \$2.5m, \$4m and \$12.5m respectively.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Balance of revenue for year to October 31, \$195.7m. This represents a 12 per cent increase over last year when after-tax balance of revenue reached a low of \$35.5m.

UNIGATE

Unigate has sold its head office to East Estate. From December 1, head office of Unigate will be at Unigate House, Western Avenue, London.

ROTHCHILD-RUME

Rothchild-Rume Trust have acquired a further 80,000 "A" ordinary shares in Hume Holdings, increasing aggregate holding to 5.5m "A" ordinary and 144,136 "B" (25.1 per cent).

READING YEARLING

Reading Borough Council has raised £2m through the issue of 112 per cent yearling bonds, at par.

SUSTAINED GROWTH ON A SOUND FOUNDATION

Financial Highlights for year ended 30th June 1975.

	1975	1974
Turnover	£44,593	£31,844
Profit before taxation	6,059	6,526
Profit after taxation	2,287	3,038
Earnings per share	17.8p	20.1p
Dividend cover	2.4	5.7

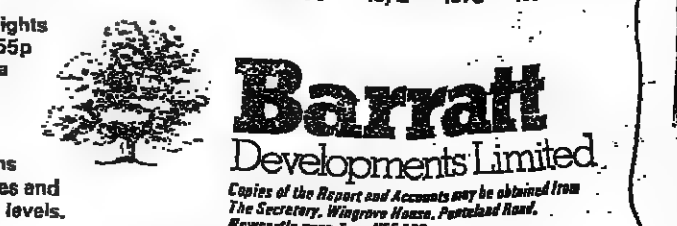
• The group built more houses and completed more contracts than in any previous year. The number of houses sold and completed was 4,250, an increase of 35% notwithstanding a major downturn in the private housing sector, consolidating our position as Britain's second largest house builder.

• Advantage has been taken of the favourable opportunities which existed to strengthen further the land stocks.

• Bank borrowings were reduced by almost £5m and we have available unused facilities of over £10m.

• As forecast at the time of the Rights Issue a final dividend of 4.72855p per share is proposed, making a total for the year of 6.0p per share, against 3.94p per share last year.

• Confidence in the future remains unimpaired. Forward house sales and contracting orders are at record levels.



Barratt Developments Limited

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Wingers House, Portland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 3DP.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Testo To early check to decline in Cope Allman's profits expected

Profits for the current year are expected to decline in Cope Allman International, the company which has achieved a 50% drop in the share price since June 30 (which itself was down on the record \$15.5m in 1974). Mr L. Mansson, chief executive, says in his annual report that the company's profits will be lower than last year's, but that the company is in a strong position to meet its obligations.

It is clear that first-half profits will be lower than last year's, but that the company is in a strong position to meet its obligations.

But trading conditions are also on the upturn in year. A positive note in the first half of 1975—particularly in the second half—has been the sales required to match last year's profits, Mr Mansson says.

Financial control has been exercised but many of the company's assets are outside the board's control and will continue to be held down by the company's debt.

Mansson can make no forecast for the full year, but says the group has a firm base for future growth and profits.

PE may get offer
The PE Group, the old Fruit & Vegetable Exchange of Great Britain, has received proposals from a "listed public company" which could lead to a change of ownership.

The shares of FPE, capitalised at £190,000, have been suspended at the company's request pending a further announcement.

Fitzroy payout
The quietest of the trading houses, the trading house, which has a reputation for being a "quiet" house, has paid a dividend of 10% to its shareholders.

Boosey & Hawkes
Reporting half-time profits up 10% to £733,000 before tax, Boosey & Hawkes, music publishers and instrument makers, say the indications are that the second half "will not be the same relationship" to the first.

Into Anglia's fold
The Anglia Building Society, with assets now approaching £500m, is to acquire the hold-

ings of two small societies. Merger plans are in hand with the Berkhamstead (assets of £1m) and a relatively new society, the Northamptonshire Foresters' (£50,000).

Record year likely for J. W. Spear
With its peak selling period still to come, J. W. Spear (games and toys) reports a 49% increase in pre-tax profits to £712,000 for the first half of 1975. This puts the company well on course towards bettering last year's record of £1.28m. Sales rose from £1.69m to £2.29m.

Solid advance by Brickwork Dudley
A sound improvement in both manufacturing and marketing enabled Brickwork Dudley, the country's biggest maker of manhole covers, to edge up taxable profits 5% to a record £750,000 over the first half to September 30. Sales rose by £2m to £8.1m with exports continuing to grow.

Pruning at Gilgate
The reliance of Gilgate Holdings upon short-term borrowings will be significantly reduced by measures now in hand. Mr T. Purrett, the chairman, says that the measures should also improve liquidity and additionally contribute to profitability.

BAKER PERKINS
Baker Perkins announce that Sister, Walker, its subsidiary, has been sold to a group of investors. The sale is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

THOS W. WARD
Thos W. Ward have sold Chain Anneling Company to Coubert & Scrutton (Holdings) for £260,000.

Wall Street
New York, Nov 26.—Stocks ending a moderate gain today, with trading fairly active. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 3.15 points to 856.55.

silver rallies sharply
New York, Nov 26.—Silver prices rose sharply today, with trading fairly active. The price of silver rose from 10.50 to 11.00.

CHICAGO SOYBEANS
Chicago, Nov 26.—Soybean futures prices rose today, with trading fairly active. The price of soybeans rose from 1.10 to 1.15.

EUROBOND PRICES (midday indicators)

STRAIGHTS

CONVERTIBLES

DM BONDS

DM BONDS

Worst yet quarter for BASF

Unveiling a daunting 52 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £712,000 in the first nine months of the year, Herr Matthias Seefelder, chairman of the giant German chemical combine, BASF, said the group would not be able to match last year's dividend of DM8.50. He explained that the poor business conditions that had faced the company for almost a year, also led to an 11.6 per cent decline in sales to DM13,144m.

On a quarterly comparison with last year, profits fell 38.5 per cent in the first quarter, 48.7 per cent in the second quarter and 70.0 per cent in the third. On the same basis, sales fell 8.7 per cent in the first quarter, 12.2 per cent in the second, and 15.6 per cent in the third.

Herr Seefelder expects that worldwide sales will lose 15 per cent in the full year—the upper limit of the range he estimated earlier in the year. While he was not "totally pessimistic" about the outcome of the fourth quarter, he did not expect a major turn round.

Although orders had improved slightly since early September, they were way below results of previous years and "quite unsatisfactory"—AP-DJ.

Business appointments
Tate & Lyle names two new directors

Mr Roger Foden and Mr Richard Cave have been appointed directors of Tate & Lyle. Mr J. E. Hobbs retires from the board on January 1 and Mr J. E. Wright will succeed Mr Foden as company secretary.

Mr A. E. Watts has become a director of NFI Mutual and Avon Insurance.

Mr Ronnie Aitken has joined the group board of Baker & Dobson as deputy chairman.

Miss Mary Dunhill will retire as chairman of the board of Baker & Dobson.

Mr John R. Wilson has been appointed company secretary of Anderson Jacobson.

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Pancontinental is not a new Poseidon

Pancontinental an Australian mining company has performed spectacularly this year the shares coming up from a low of 220p to yesterday's closing price of 920p, after having touched 950p before profit taking trimmed the gains. The really big spurt has come over the last week, with the shares putting on 125p.

The shares have risen on the back of increasingly bullish forecasts for the future of uranium, but the real impetus was sparked off by Pancontinental's announcement that it was to upgrade ore reserves and had also located viable gold deposits at the Jabluka site in Australia's Northern Territory.

The price rise over the last week has, unfortunately, caused some people to start talking about the "new Poseidon". At best this is misleading, at worst it is inviting investors to get their fingers burnt. As one seasoned watcher of the Australian scene said: "In so far as there is any connection with Poseidon, the shares may go away up, but sure as hell they will sink like Poseidon."

The new wave of buying in Pancontinental has been centred on London and as the interest has mounted so the Americans have started coming in on the scene. The stock has also acted as a magnet for speculators.

For the ordinary investor, Pancontinental is a share for the future and—at the moment—a very hazy future it is, although ultimately it will be a profitable venture. But the degree of profitability is questionable.

Jabluka, in which Pancontinental has a 63 per cent stake with Getty Oil holding the remainder, is likely to start production in 1981, reaching full production the following year.

At the moment there is a government ban on the export of uranium, but that is likely to be lifted before long. However, long before Jabluka gets into production the Ex-Peko Wallsend Ranger project will get under way. On top of that, the Government is likely to extract heavy royalties when Jabluka starts up while the aborigines, who claim some of the mine's land, are likely to be bought off with a further royalty payment.

These are not particularly bullish factors, merely cautionary notes on Pancontinental.

The upgrading of reserves and the presence of gold are largely irrelevant. Known reserves already stand at 115,200 short tons of U3O8—enough for 20 years of production. The outlook beyond 20 years is largely academic.

In addition, the gold, while being useful, is by no means the cream on the cake—more like the top of the milk.

A leading London uranium analyst suggests that the upside of the Pancontinental shares is probably £10, unless the bandwagon gets out of control. For the ordinary investor this is definitely a share to avoid (or to sell) at its current price: there is a very narrow market for the shares and the big speculators are in a very uneasy way.

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New Style Monthly Saving with the Halifax

Everyone has someone or something to save for. With Halifax Monthly Savings Shares you can reach your personal target—whatever its purpose—simply, safely and systematically.

The rate of interest currently paid is 8.25% per annum with your liability to basic rate income tax on this interest discharged by the Society. This is equivalent to no less than 12.69% if you pay basic rate tax. See how—with this preferential rate of interest—your monthly savings soon grow:

Monthly Saving	VALUE OF INVESTMENT assuming the continuance of the current rate of 8.25% at the end of a period of				
	2 years	4 years	6 years	8 years	10 years
£	£	£	£	£	£
1	26.14	56.87	92.99	135.45	185.36
2	52.28	113.74	185.98	270.90	370.72
5	130.70	284.34	464.94	677.24	926.80
10	261.40	568.68	929.89	1354.48	1853.59
20	522.81	1137.37	1859.78	2708.97	3707.18
40	1045.62	2274.74	3719.56	5417.93	7414.36

Any fixed amount in round pounds from £1 to £40 can be saved by regular monthly payments for any period you like but the aggregate holding of an individual in all departments of the Society must not exceed £10,000, or £20,000 in the case of a husband and wife jointly. Because of the generous rate of interest offered part withdrawals are not permitted.

Open a new style Monthly Savings account now and see how quickly you can make your goal become a reality. Simply call at your nearest Halifax Office for full details.



Care, Confidence, Security with the
HALIFAX
BUILDING SOCIETY
Member of The Building Societies Association

The biggest building society in the world.
Assets exceed £4,000 million

10

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Appointments Vacant

GENERAL VACANCIES

THE BRITISH SULPHUR CORPORATION LIMITED

The Corporation, a leading international consultancy and publishing firm for the fertilizer industry, wishes to fill two posts:

RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

AND ASSISTANT EDITOR

For both posts the ability to write well is essential and fluency in English is a must. The Research Executive will analyse developments in the fertilizer market, contribute to the development of new products and services, and act as a liaison between the company and its customers. The Assistant Editor will write and edit material for the company's newsletter, contribute to the development of new products and services, and act as a liaison between the company and its customers.

Please send full career and personal details, quoting job reference, by 12th December to:—

THE BRITISH SULPHUR CORPORATION LIMITED
Parnell House, 25 Wilton Road,
London SW1V 1NL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX

AREA ADVISORY OFFICER

for Citizens' Advice Bureaux in Lancashire and Cumbria. Work involves promoting new services, maintaining standards and training of the bureau workers. The successful candidate will be a person with experience in social work, community work, and a knowledge of the area. Salary is £2,500 p.a. plus expenses. Further details and application form from The Administrator, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' SERVICE, 25 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3BU.

Closing date 12th December, 1975

CAREER IN ADVERTISING

A BANKER TO BE

The Marketing Department of a leading Newspaper Group is seeking a young man (25-30) to work in its advertising sales. The successful candidate will be a person with experience in advertising sales, a knowledge of the newspaper industry, and a good communication skills. Salary is £2,500 p.a. plus expenses. Further details and application form from The Administrator, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' SERVICE, 25 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3BU.

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MIDDLE EAST

ACCOUNTANT

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Closing date 12th December, 1975

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

KENSINGTON, W8

£4,500-£6,000 p.a.

Small, progressive multiple retail organisation seeks fully qualified Accountant to assume responsibility for accounting function, produce management information and periodic and final accounts.

He would be expected to become involved in basic work personally in addition to forming part of a forward looking management team.

Successful applicant would have knowledge of mechanized accounting techniques also ability, attitude and experience, career and promotion prospects are excellent.

Salary negotiable in range £4,500 to £6,000 p.a. depending upon ability, qualifications and experience.

Applications will be treated in strictest confidence giving full details to

Box 1686 S, The Times

ACCOUNTANT

MARKET PLANNING

An American manufacturing company operating world wide is offering a position in its London office. The successful candidate will be a person with experience in market planning, a knowledge of the manufacturing industry, and a good communication skills. Salary is £2,500 p.a. plus expenses. Further details and application form from The Administrator, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' SERVICE, 25 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3BU.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

TANZANIA

Applications are invited for the post of SENIOR LECTURER in the Department of Education. The successful candidate will be a person with experience in education, a knowledge of the Tanzanian education system, and a good communication skills. Salary is £2,500 p.a. plus expenses. Further details and application form from The Administrator, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' SERVICE, 25 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3BU.

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TANZANIA

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Senior Administrative Officer

Manchester

Applications are invited (from men and women) for a Senior Administrative Officer (Assistant Secretary level) post on the staff of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Salary is in the range £3,650-£11,000.

The Commission has been set up under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 to work towards the elimination of discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity between men and women generally and to oversee and advise on the working of the relevant legislation.

This officer will have the responsibility for advising the Chief Officer and the Commission on its strategy; for planning and undertaking research and the development of policy; and for drawing up publicity and educational programmes designed to achieve the Commission's aims.

The work will demand clear thinking, a capacity for judgement and critical analysis and good powers of communication. Candidates must have a good honours degree and a record of substantial achievement in a relevant area such as business, the professions or central or local government.

Selection will be by interview in early January. The successful candidate will be expected to take up appointment as soon as possible. Conditions of service, including a non-contributory pensions scheme, will be analogous to those of the Civil Service.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from:

Equal Opportunities Commission Planning Unit,
Commission House, 20 Grosvenor Hill, London W1X 0HX.
Tel. 01-629 8233 ext 29.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 15th December 1975.

ECONOMICS GRADUATES

become a professional Economist

and enjoy prospects leading to over £11,000

As an economist in government service you'll be working at the highest national level. You'll be providing Ministers and senior administrators with advice on general economic matters and on specific policy proposals. The importance of this work is such that it cannot be over-emphasized.

If you're under 27 and have or expect to obtain in 1976 a degree with first or second class honours, or a post-graduate degree, in economics or a closely related subject you could become an Economic Assistant.

You would then be working on a salary rising to over £11,000 and higher posts rising.

These appointments are pensionable and may be permanent or for a fixed period.

CADET ECONOMISTS

There are also a very few vacancies for Cadet Economists. You must be under 27 and have or expect to obtain in 1976 a degree with first or second class honours, or a post-graduate degree, in economics or a closely related subject. As a Cadet, you would start at £1,500 (higher in London) and be sponsored in a post-graduate course in economics. On successful completion of this course you will be appointed as an Economic Assistant.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 6 February 1976) write to Civil Service Commission, 71a, of Telegraph Buildings, London EC2A 4PU (enquiries service operates outside office hours on London 01-629 8233 24 hour answering service).

Please quote ref. A/21/3.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Otago

STUDIO ENGINEER

Challenging

Rult in the
ar market

Two items of news today. The first is that the Renault 30 TS is launched on the British market. The second is that a smaller version of the car, to be Renault 20, goes on sale at the end of the year.

The Renault 30 TS is a car designed around the engine jointly developed (used in the 264, which is last week) and Peugeot. The biggest car produced by the company's recent practice only in the lower market.

es in the motor industry they are, the 30 TS was before the 20, it is, only the emphasis on car, and it is in- speculate whether the pro- have gone ahead had able to foresee the he past two years.

ough the company was to the end of the year, as no reason why it should ight "down market" with engine and lower level of Hence the 20, which uses in 1647cc unit from the T.C. No figure is given for the 30 TS, but it is likely that the 20 will on fuel with, of course, a performance; while the omish items as electric windows locking should keep down

In short, the Renault 20, MV 518 Jaguar 3.4, is the energy crisis. It will be a Britain in the autumn. TS should not, however, be as irrelevant. There may more opportune times to a car, but on performance, sport, versatility and price it dable new challenge in the market.

Volvo and Peugeot, which V6 engine in conventional drive cars, Renault has kept ice to front-wheel drive and over the hatchback prin- onered on the 16. The 30 t, is the first car of its size door at the back though from Rover and Audi sig- it will not be the last.

is shorter and lighter than 264, which helps to explain so much livelier. With a acceleration time of just seconds, good top gear flexi- a maximum speed of 115 30 TS is a match for any of Up to our 70 mph limit, at line and wind noise are sub- drivers can happily cruise thorway without drowning the ven on a bitterly cold morn- started first time on the choke. Fuel consumption on 24 miles to the gallon, average for a car of this performance.

other Renaults, the soft sus- allied to well shaped and y upholstered seats, makes ially excellent ride, though surfaces there were more illing I might have expected the with some roll, gentle, pre- underster and excellent road- But even on a dry road fast

The Renault 30 TS—a formidable new challenger in the large car market.

acceleration could induce wheel spin. The steering has a moderate amount of "power assistance, which means that the driver has enough "feel" combined with lightness for parking. Close to full lock the steering starts to hiss, as it does on the Jaguar. The brakes are power-assisted discs all round, with a dual circuit, and respond to the interest of the pedal. The gear- box is excellent once you get used to the long travel and the spring loading, which may easily take you straight from first to fourth.

Although the 30 TS must be considered a big car, at 14ft 10in it is less than a foot longer than the Renault 16 and shorter than almost all its competitors. Interior space is generous, with plenty of head and leg room in the back for a tall person and enough width to seat three in comfort. Boot space is also exceptional, though the top-biased tailgate makes loading very easy, and the rear seat folds down, or can be removed, if a bigger luggage area is needed. There are seven possible seat permutations, one of which provides a makeshift bed.

I found it a little difficult to obtain the ideal driving position without the rather large steering wheel pinning my thighs and I could have done with height, as well as rake and rear- adjustment on the seat. The instru- ments are on the small side, and, roughly the most important of them, the fuel gauge, is hidden by the rim of the steering wheel. The heater was adequate in output but took some time to warm up. The fresh air vents, however, proved most effective. The windscreen wipers have only one speed, which I found distracting fast, and their operation was noisy. A gen- erous glass area ensures good visibility and it is easy to judge the rear limits of the car. One curiosity is that the outside door locks are such that only the left hand can operate them on the outside of the car, and vice versa.

The 30 TS comes comprehensively equipped, with power-steering, electric front windows, central locking, laminated windscreen, heated back- light, revolution counter, clock, twin halogen headlights (with height ad- juster), double reversing lights, head restraints and outside mirror. All that makes the basic price of £3,952 com- petitive, although cloth seats cost an extra £35.

Towards better economy

In a television broadcast just over a year ago President Ford asked American car manufacturers to achieve a 40 per cent improvement in average fuel economy by the 1980 model year, a target which has since been re- quired in Congress to translate that quest into law.

A glance at the fuel consumption figures for American cars may suggest, to British eyes at least, that such con- cern is not excessive. In the 1974 model year, for example, the average was 12.2 mpg for General Motors cars, 14.4 for Ford and 13.8 for Chrysler. Even the smaller imported cars from Europe and Japan could not produce an aver-

all national figure of better than 14 mpg, and the picture looks worse still when it is remembered that the American average is about four fifths of its British equivalent. The average British car, according to the Central Policy Review Staff, does 27 mpg.

The main reason why American cars are so thirsty is that they are big and use powerful engines. The introduc- tion of smaller models, first the com- pact and more recently the sub- compact car, should have improved the situation, as they now account for more than half the market. But two powerful forces have been working in the opposite direction: the legally backed moves towards cleaner, cleaner, and better crash protection. Reducing the level of exhaust emis- sion and making cars stronger and heavier may be good for health and survival but it does mean that more precious oil is burnt.

In the American Government's triple concern for health, safety and fuel conservation it will be interesting to see how the legislative balance falls in the years ahead. General Motors is publicly committed to achieving Presi- dent Ford's target, while the legisla- tive proviso that safety and emission standards continue at present level.

Meanwhile the increased use of catalytic converters, which seems to have emerged as the best way of ensur- ing that cleaner engines are not thirstier ones, and an accelerated change to smaller cars has already pushed the average up. But even if the 40 per cent target is reached by 1980 the average American car, including imports, will still, in our terms, be doing only about 15 mpg.

Fewer parking tickets

The £6 fixed penalty for parking offences seems to have been effective. During the last full week of the old £2 fine 51,680 parking tickets were issued in the Metropolitan Police area but immediately after the introduction of the £6 ticket the weekly figure dropped to 31,170. Nor was the drop a temporary one, for the new fine has been in operation nearly three months and the issue of tickets remains at about 30,000 a week.

I suspect that many drivers had come to accept the £2 fine, which had been in force for 15 years, and felt it was often worth risking the money rather than park at all. The three- fold increase has certainly brought them up with jerk, though it will be interesting to see how long the fine stays at £6.

It also remains to be seen whether the new fine will be accompanied by a change in the way the Metropolitan Police collect fines, mainly because of the difficulty of tracing the person who was driving the car at the time. Now it is the car owner, whether or not he is in charge of the vehicle when the offence was committed, who must pay.

Peter Waymark

adcasting

The environment taken a back seat lately on television? It bounces back with one of those disturbing ecological programmes (BBC1 10.15). Less ly those RAF erks get their marching orders for the present (ITV 8.30), and a stern quiz reaches its semi-final stage (BBC1 8.30) and Horacio rez plays a piano concerto (BBC2 8.10). In the afternoon Blue Peter, the n's programme, launches its Christmas appeal (BBC1 4.45) and the Roundabout (BBC1 5.40) offers a moment of blissful escape before the The headmaster of Westminster provides a late-night view of the public (ITV 12.15).—L.B.

BBC 2

On the Move, 12.20, 12.25, News, 1.20, 1.45-2.02, Ragtime, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 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